

Windy City



Chicago Mayor Fires Police Chief In Wake Of Video Release

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel speaks at a news conference in Chicago, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, where he announced the firing of Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and discussed the creation of a newly created task force on police accountability. The firing of McCarthy came a week after the release of a dash-cam video that showed a white police officer fatally shooting a black teenager 16 times.

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**DON BABWIN
Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — Rahm Emanuel sought for months to keep the public from seeing a video that shows a white police officer shooting a black teenager 16 times. Now, a week after the video's release, the Chicago mayor has fired the police superintendent, created a new task force for police accountability and expanded the use of body cameras. But Emanuel's effort to keep the video secret and his long wait to take action at the police department has stirred deep skepticism

among those protesting the teen's death. Many activists are especially incensed by the fact that the video first surfaced during a re-election campaign, when the mayor was seeking African-American votes. "In our community, everyone is saying it (the video) was not released because of the election," said Corey Brooks, a prominent black minister. Had it emerged earlier, the video "could have buried" Emanuel's chances for re-election, Columbia Law School professor Bernard E. Harcourt wrote in a New York Times op-ed piece

published Monday. The mayor defended the decision to withhold the video from the public until the investigation was finished. "You don't compromise an ongoing investigation," he said. "Yet it's clear you all want and the public deserves that information. They're two conflicting principles." Asked by a reporter if Emanuel thought he would become a distraction himself and would consider resigning, the mayor responded, "You'll make that judgment. I think I'm doing my job. And I try to do it every day do it in a profes-

sional way." Emanuel on Tuesday announced the dismissal of Garry McCarthy, who only days ago insisted to reporters that the mayor had his "back." The mayor praised McCarthy's leadership but called it an "undeniable fact" that the public's trust in the police had eroded. "Now is the time for fresh eyes and new leadership," Emanuel said. Through a spokesman, McCarthy declined to comment Tuesday to The Associated Press.

Continued on page 5

In slap at Obama, US House moves to block climate rule

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Barack Obama worked to hammer out a global climate agreement in Paris, Republicans in Congress moved to block his plan to force steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from U.S. power plants.

The House passed two resolutions Tuesday disapproving Obama's power-plant rules and rendering them inoperative. A measure blocking an Environmental Protection Agency rule for existing power plants was approved 242-180, while a measure blocking a rule on future power plants was approved 235-188.

The votes come after the Senate approved identical motions last month under a little-used law that allows Congress to block executive actions it considers onerous. The measures now go to the White House, where they face almost-certain vetoes.

Rep. Ed Whitfield, a Republican, said party lawmakers were forcing a vote on the climate rule to "send a message to the climate conference in Paris that in America, there's serious disagreement with the policies of this president."

House Republican Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Obama wants to reduce carbon emissions, but his policies will kill jobs, increase electricity costs and decrease the reliability of the U.S. energy supply.

And Rep. Jeff Duncan, a Republican said he wished Obama took the threat posed by "radical jihadists" such as the Islamic State as seriously as he takes what Duncan called a "pseudoscientific threat" posed by climate change. Democrats countered that the power-plant rules were important steps to slow global climate change that is already causing real harm through increased droughts, wildfires, floods and more severe storms. Rep. Frank Pallone, a Democrat, said it was regrettable that Republicans were trying to block the power-plant rules even as officials from more than 190 nearly countries and many of the world's largest private companies gathered in Paris to work out details of a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The global agreement "will prevent us from further overheating the earth and causing major disruptions to people's lives, their property and to the global economy," Pallone said. "We know that (climate change) will endanger our children's future if we don't act now."

The new rules being imposed by the Obama administration require states to cut carbon emissions by 32 percent by 2030, based on emissions in 2005. Each state has a customized target and is responsible for drawing up an effective plan to meet its goal.

The EPA says it has authority to enact the plan under the Clean Air Act.

The Republicans challenged the administration's action under the little-used Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to block executive actions with simple majority votes. The maneuver is subject to a presidential veto and has rarely been successful. The White House issued a veto threat last month, saying the resolutions undermine public health protections of the Clean Air Act and "stop critical U.S. efforts to reduce dangerous carbon pollution from power plants." Speaking in Paris Tuesday, Obama said parts of a global climate agreement should be legally binding. His declaration was both a boost to climate negotiators seeking a tough accord and a challenge to Republicans in Congress, many of whom reject the idea of global warming. □

Obama pushes climate agenda in Paris

KARL RITTER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Barack Obama said Tuesday that parts of the global warming deal being negotiated in Paris should be legally binding on the participating countries, setting up a potential fight with Republicans at home. Obama's stand won praise

"Although the targets themselves may not have the force of treaties, the process, the procedures that ensure transparency and periodic reviews, that needs to be legally binding," Obama said in Paris, "and that's going to be critical."

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate

targets."

"The fact that the United States of America could commit to a binding agreement whilst before there was a doubt because of Congress, is really extraordinary news that comes at a good time," French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said.

Senate Majority Leader



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Centre, in Paris, on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. Obama discussed the COP21 climate change summit, and the threat of terrorism from the Islamic State Group. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

at the U.N. climate conference from those who want a strong agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas. But it could rile conservatives in Washington, especially if he tries to put the deal into effect without seeking congressional approval.

The Obama administration has pledged during the international talks to reduce U.S. emissions by up to 28 percent by 2025. But inscribing the emissions target in the Paris deal would probably require Obama to submit the pact to Congress, where it would be unlikely to win ratification. Many Republicans doubt global warming is real or fear that stringent pollution controls could kill jobs.

So the administration is looking to keep the targets out while including binding procedures on when and how countries should review their targets and raise them if possible.

Environment and Public Works Committee and a fierce critic of Obama's policies, fired back immediately.

"The U.S. Senate will not be ignored. If the president wishes to sign the American people up to a legally binding agreement, the deal must go through the Senate," he said in a statement. "There is no way around it."

The White House previously said parts of the deal should be legally binding, but this is the first time Obama has said it himself and spelled out which ones.

Obama's comments brought relief to the French hosts of the conference, who were worried about whether the U.S. wanted a binding deal at all after Secretary of State John Kerry told The Financial Times that the agreement was "definitely not going to be a treaty" and that there was "not going to be legally binding reduction

Mitch McConnell and other Republican leaders have warned other countries not to trust any deal Obama may strike. Other GOP politicians are working to nullify Obama's emissions-cutting steps at home.

The Republican-led House was scheduled to vote Tuesday afternoon on whether to strike down federal rules reducing carbon emissions from power plants.

At a news conference, House Speaker Paul Ryan was asked whether Congress was out of step with public opinion on climate change.

"I don't think we're out of step with public opinion wanting jobs, wanting economic growth, weighing the costs and the benefits," Ryan said. "I think when you weigh the costs and the benefits against these so-called legally binding obligations, they don't add up. I think it's very clear people want jobs." □

US sending new special ops force to fight Islamic State

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The U.S. military will deploy a new special operations force to Iraq to step up the fight against Islamic State militants unleashing violence in Iraq and Syria and determined to hold territory they have seized across the Middle East, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told Congress on Tuesday.

Carter, who testified alongside Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, faced skeptical lawmakers who argued that the U.S. needs to be more forceful in countering the threat from IS, credited with attacks in Paris and Beirut and the downing of a Russian airliner.

Carter told the House Armed Services Committee that over time, the special operations force will be able to conduct raids, free hostages, gather intelligence and capture IS leaders. Carter said that will improve intelligence and generate more targets for attacks.

There currently are about 3,500 U.S. troops in Iraq, and President Barack Obama had previously announced he was sending fewer than 50 special operations forces to Syria. There has been a growing call from some Republicans for more U.S. ground forces and a divide among war-weary Americans about the prospect of greater military involvement.

Carter said the number in the new expeditionary force will be "larger" than 50. He said it will be a "standing" force, meaning it will be stationed in Iraq. He said it would focus on helping Iraq defend its borders and build the Iraqi security forces, but also would be in position to conduct unilateral operations into Syria.

"This is an important capability because it takes advantage of what we're good at," Carter said. "We're good at intelligence, we're good at mobility, we're good at surprise. We have the long reach that no one else has.

And it puts everybody on notice in Syria. You don't know at night who's going to be coming in the window. And that's the sensation that we want all of ISIL's leadership and followers to have."

According to a U.S. official, the force could total up to a couple hundred troops, including the assault teams, aviation units and other support units. It would likely be based in Irbil.

Obama has set the maximum number of troops at 3,550, but it was not clear whether the president will increase that number to accommodate the force, or whether the teams would have to be built within the current limit.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the individual was not authorized to publicly discuss military planning.

Carter said the force might be American-only, but more likely would be a mixed force with perhaps Kurdish troops or others who are fighting the militants. He said the new force would conduct operations similar to two conducted earlier this year.

In October, U.S. special operations troops and Iraqi forces raided a compound in northern Iraq freeing about 70 Iraqi prisoners who were facing execution. One U.S. service member was killed in the raid, the first American combat death in Iraq since the U.S. began its campaign against IS in August 2014. In May, a Delta Force raid in Syria killed IS financier Abu Sayyaf, yielded intelligence about the group's structure and finances, and his wife, held in Iraq, has been cooperating with interrogators.

Also on Monday the US House passed a bill authorizing a 7 percent spending increase for US intelligence agencies and pressing President Barack Obama to produce a strategy to defeat the Islamic State.

The bill, passed Tuesday by a vote of 364 to 58, must be reconciled with a similar measure pending in the Senate. □



Defense Secretary Ash Carter, left, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, to testify before the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the U.S. Strategy for Syria and Iraq and its Implications for the Region.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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Clinton commemorates boycott, says US must address injustice



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, in Montgomery, Ala. Clinton's keynote address is part of a two-day event put on by the National Bar Association in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Montgomery city bus boycott which began after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man. (AP Photo/ Hal Yeager)

KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press
MONTGOMERY, Alabama
(AP) — Standing in the pulpit where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led the historic Montgomery bus

boycott, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton reached out to black voters Tuesday saying the U.S. is still plagued by injustices such as mass incarceration, an epidemic

of gun violence and attempts to roll back voting rights. Clinton spoke to a majority black crowd at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where

the slain civil rights leader preached his Sunday sermons from 1954 to 1960. King's daughter, Bernice King, gave the benediction. "We must be honest about the larger and deeper inequalities that continue to exist across our country," Clinton said. Clinton's speech fell on the anniversary of Rosa Parks' Dec. 1, 1955 arrest for refusing to give her bus seat to a white passenger. Her arrest sparked the 381-day boycott of Montgomery buses by blacks to protest segregated seating. "There are still injustices perpetuated every day in our country, sometimes in spite of the law, sometimes unfortunately in keeping of it," Clinton said. She said mass imprisonment of nonviolent criminals such as drug offenders does little to reduce crime, but much to rip apart families. "Right now an estimated 1.5 million black men are missing from their families

and communities because of incarceration and premature death. And too many black families mourn the loss of a child," she said. Clinton praised the work of police who build trust and confidence with the public, but she called for reforms and "a new course in how we approach punishment and prison." Clinton also decried what she called efforts to erode the voting rights that minorities won decades ago. "Unfortunately, there is mischief afoot," she said. In stops in the South, the Democratic presidential front-runner has been working to solidify her advantage among African-American voters. Clinton has made frank discussion about the country's lingering racism a central theme of her primary campaign, in an effort to woo the coalition of minority, young, and female voters who twice catapulted Barack Obama into the White House. □

Officer says he told boy to show hands before fatal shots

JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press
A white Cleveland patrolman who fatally shot a 12-year-old black boy carrying a pellet gun told investigators that he and his partner continuously yelled "show me your hands" before he fired, according to the officer's statement released by prosecutors Tuesday. The rookie officer said that Tamir Rice didn't obey his commands and that

he saw the boy pulling a weapon out of his waist band. "I knew it was a gun and I knew it was coming out," officer Timothy Loehmann said in the statement given to investigators. It turned out Tamir was carrying a nonlethal, Airsoft-type gun that shoots plastic pellets when Loehmann shot him twice outside a recreation center on Nov. 22, 2014. He died a day later.

A grand jury will decide if Loehmann or his field training officer should be charged criminally for Tamir's death. Prosecutors in recent weeks released a frame-by-frame analysis of the surveillance camera footage from the shooting, along with expert reports that called the shooting justified. Attorneys for the Rice family have asked Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim Mc-

Ginty to step aside and allow a special prosecutor to take over the case. They called the prosecutor's presentation to the grand jury "biased" and "improper" after releasing the reports that found no fault with the officers' actions. They said Tuesday that allowing both officers to make unsworn statements that won't be subject to cross examination "further taints these proceedings." The statements from

Loehmann and patrolman Frank Garmback describe in detail action that the surveillance video shows took about two seconds. They were responding after a person called police and reported that a man was waving a gun and pointing it at people. The caller told the dispatcher that the gun might not be real. The call also said the man might be a juvenile, but that information wasn't passed on to the officers. □

Chicago mayor fires police chief after video release



In this 2012 photo, Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy responds to a question during a news conference in Chicago. Chicago's mayor fired McCarthy on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, a week after the release of a dash-cam video that showed a white officer fatally shooting a black teenager 16 times. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

Continued from Front

Protesters have been calling for McCarthy's dismissal in response to the handling of the death of Laquan McDonald, a 17-year-old who was killed in October 2014.

Some aldermen, particularly members of the city council's black caucus, have also been seeking McCarthy's resignation, citing the city's crime rate and questions about the department transparency. The city released video of the shooting only after a judge ordered it to be made public. Last week's release set off several days of largely peaceful protests. On the same day, officer Jason Van Dyke was charged with murder.

"Any case of excessive force or abuse of authority undermines the entire force and the trust we must build with every community in the city," the mayor said. Police officers are only effective "if they

are trusted by all Chicagoans, whoever they are and wherever they live in the city."

Emanuel introduced McCarthy as his pick to lead the department in May 2011, replacing former FBI agent Jody Weis, who was unpopular with many rank-and-file officers who claimed Weis did not stand behind them.

Alderman Howard Brookins Jr., a member of the black caucus, said he appreciated Emanuel's "willingness to change course."

Chief of Detectives John Escalante will oversee the department until a permanent replacement is named, Emanuel said.

The mayor also announced the creation of a task force on police accountability that will help develop an early warning system allowing the department to intervene with problem officers racking up complaints from the public.

Van Dyke was the subject of 18 civilian complaints over 14 years, including al-

legations that he used racial epithets and excessive force. Complaints against police are not uncommon, but the number filed against Van Dyke was high compared with other officers. Emanuel's office announced Sunday that the police department would expand its use of officer body cameras from a single district to roughly a third of Chicago. Emanuel credited McCarthy with modernizing Chicago's police force, getting illegal guns off the streets and pushing a community policing strategy that the mayor said had reduced overall crime rates to a record low.

In particular, McCarthy was a constant preacher on the need for tougher punishments for gun offenses. He hammered on the fact

that many murder suspects had prior gun convictions, which McCarthy argued should have kept them off the streets.

But the police chief came under pressure because of homicides that included high-profile cases such as the slaying of Hadiya Pendleton.

Also on Tuesday, relatives of another person fatally shot last year by Chicago police stepped up their pleas to have the squad car video made public. Emanuel spokeswoman Kelley Quinn said the city was "looking into" releasing it.

Police have said 25-year-old Ronald Johnson III was fatally shot by an officer on Oct. 12, 2014. At the time, authorities said he pointed a gun at police. □

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American Living:

Demand for farm loans surges amid low crop, cattle prices

ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The nation's net farm income is the lowest since 2002, and with another year of low commodity prices, demand for agriculture loans

past president of Kansas Bankers Association's Ag Bankers Division. Yet, crop prices are not high enough for farmers to make payments on equipment loans — or even to get paid for their own labor.

current run on loans will be anything like the farm credit crisis of the 1980s, when those who survived the significant year-to-year losses were without large debts to repay.

Farmer Tom Giessel had to

row any money for the farm between 2012 and 2014.

"Everybody is kind of taking a step backward with these low commodity prices," he said. "In fact, it might be more than a step — it might be kind of a tumble backward."

U.S. farm debt is forecast to increase 6.3 percent in 2015, a recent U.S. Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service report showed. At the same time, net income has plummeted by a staggering 55 percent since 2013 and is forecast to be \$55.9 billion this year — the lowest since 2002. The report cites depressed crop and cattle prices as the main reasons for the decline.

It's the latest in a boom-and-bust cycle as old as farming. A widespread drought that began in 2010 in the south and spread across the Midwest before peaking in 2012 diminished stockpiles of grain, but was followed by a renaissance fueled by a rare combination of high crop yields and prices. As more grain crops were grown, the resulting glut caused a sharp fall in prices these past two years, aggravated by weak ex-

ports.

"Most of what we are hearing out there is that farmers and the banks are in good shape to be able to weather any potential downturn," said Steve Apodaca, vice president of the Washington, D.C.-based American Bankers Association's Center for Agricultural and Rural Banking.

The USDA's Farm Service Agency saw demand for loans across the nation soar over two from nearly \$4 billion in 2013 to more than \$5.6 billion in 2015. Delinquency rates nationwide were around 1 percent, according to FSA data.

Lenders credit the low delinquency rates in part to banks, government lenders and some agricultural programs that help stretch out repayment periods until prices come up again. Some lenders also are restructuring payments on some older loans for equipment or land to give farmers more flexibility, according to Soukup, who's also a banker.

But the longer commodity prices stay at this level, the more difficult it will be to do that long-term. □



Lester Reimer harvests wheat on his farm near Lebo, Kansas. The nation's net farm income is the lowest since 2002, and with another year of low commodity prices, demand for agriculture loans is surging as farmers struggle to make ends meet.

(AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

is surging as farmers struggle to make ends meet.

Today's grain prices will bring in enough to pay for basic operating costs like fertilizer, seed and land rent, said Troy Soukup, the

Agricultural lenders say they are seeing people who had operating loans requesting larger ones, and some who had operated with cash are borrowing money. But it's unlikely the

borrow just to finish out this season at his western Kansas farm where he grows wheat, corn and sorghum. Not so long ago, commodity prices were so high that Giessel didn't have to bor-

Monsanto pledges to be carbon neutral by 2021

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Co. plans to make its operations carbon neutral by 2021, in part by working with farmers who use its products to help them reduce carbon emissions, the company's CEO told The Associated Press.

To be carbon neutral, Monsanto must reduce its net emission of climate-change-

ing carbon to zero. Climate change is one of the most vital issues facing humanity, Monsanto's Hugh Grant said in an interview ahead of the company's announcement Tuesday, and an "untold story" is the agricultural industry's effort to address the issue.

Farmers "have an opportunity and a part to play in mitigation around climate change," Grant said.

"Rather than being the problem, I think there's a growing realization they can be a big part of the solution." Monsanto's announcement comes as world leaders gather in Paris for two weeks of negotiations to finalize a sweeping global agreement to reduce carbon emissions.

Grant said part of St. Louis-based Monsanto's effort is basic "good housekeep-

ing," such as stricter emissions control, conserving energy at offices, using more fuel-efficient vehicles. The company also pledges within its seed production operations to reduce its carbon footprint through breeding, plant biotechnology, conservation tillage and use of cover crops.

A key component of the plan calls for working with the thousands of farmers

who use Monsanto seeds and pesticides. The company is developing an incentives program to encourage environmentally friendly production methods — cover crops and conservation tillage chief among them — that allow the soil to absorb and hold as much or more greenhouse gases than are emitted in corn and soybean farming. □

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UnitedHealth's CEO says ACA exchange move 'bad decision'

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

UnitedHealth CEO Stephen Hemsley offered a mea culpa Tuesday for his company's decision to dive deeper into the Affordable Care Act's public insurance exchanges, a move that ultimately forced the nation's largest health insurer to cut its earnings forecast.

Hemsley told investors that the insurer should have learned more about the still-new business, and expanding before it did that was "for us, a bad decision." UnitedHealth jumped into two dozen state-based exchanges for 2015 after selling coverage on just four in 2014.

"It will take more than a season or two for this market to develop," Hemsley said during a webcast of the company's annual meeting with investors in New York.

UnitedHealth lowered its 2015 outlook last month after detailing steep losses from the exchange business. The insurer also said its exchange business — a small slice of its overall portfolio — was weighing on its 2016 earnings forecast, and it would decide next year whether to even participate in the exchanges in 2017.

That announcement shook health insurance stocks and raised concern about the long-term viability of the state-based insurance exchanges, a key component of the overhaul's push to expand coverage to millions of uninsured people. Several smaller, nonprofit insurance cooperatives also have said that they would stop selling coverage on the exchanges for 2016. □

US Financial Front:

Factory activity drops in November, first decline in 3 years

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

factory activity plummeted last month to the lowest level in more than six years, with a stronger dollar and low oil prices cutting new orders and hurting production.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that its index of factory activity in November dropped to 48.6 from 50.1 in October. Any reading below 50 signals contraction and the index has tumbled below that critical level for the first time since November 2012.

It now rests at its lowest level since June 2009, a worrisome sign as Federal Reserve officials will consider raising short-term interest rates this month on the understanding that the economy has sufficiently healed from the Great Recession.

"The U.S. manufacturing sector continues to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, with 'fortune' being that of the strong U.S. dollar, the oil and gas industry, and soft global growth," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

U.S. manufacturers fell into a rut in 2015. A global economic slowdown and a rising dollar have crimped exports, while lower oil prices have led energy firms to slash their orders for steel pipe and other equipment for drilling. Those pressures have steadily curbed growth in factory activity this year and have now pushed the manufacturing sector into contraction.

A measure for new orders dropped to 48.9 from 52.9, while production fell to 49.2 from 52.9. Still, the report showed a rebound in hiring as its employment

measure improved to 51.3 from 47.6 a month earlier.

Of the 18 industries tracked in the ISM survey, 10 contracted last month. Among

vey. The cheaper costs have improved profit margins for manufacturers, but continued declines would point to less demand and

cies from a year ago. The increase has left manufacturers at a disadvantage. U.S. goods have become more expensive overseas,



Ron Hudgins welds a 2015 Ford F-150 cab at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Dearborn, Mich. U.S. factory activity fell last month to the lowest level in more than six years. The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015 that its index of factory activity in November dropped to 48.6 from 50.1 in October. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

the sectors that shrank were apparel, plastics and rubber, machinery, primary metals, petroleum and coal, electrical equipment and computer and electronic products.

The manufacturing report still suggests that the broader economy is growing, even if manufacturing has become a drag. Any reading above 43.1 in the index is associated with the overall economy expanding.

"We stepped into a pot-hole here," said Bradley J. Holcomb, chair of the ISM manufacturing business survey committee. He said the fundamentals should enable a rebound in the coming months rather than a prolonged decline.

Commodity prices have dropped sharply over the past 13 months in the sur-

fewer sales.

U.S. manufacturers have been squeezed this year as a strong dollar and weak economies in China and other key foreign markets have cut into exports.

A separate measure released Tuesday found that Chinese manufacturing has slipped to its worst level in more than three years. China's manufacturing index, based on a survey of factory purchasing managers, slipped for the fourth straight month despite stimulus efforts to support growth. The index fell to 49.6 in November from 49.8 the previous month. Any reading of the index below 50 signals contraction.

Because of less economic growth worldwide, the dollar has appreciated nearly 14 percent against a grouping of major curren-

while lowering prices for imported goods that compete against American products. China has been stuck in a slowdown, as has Brazil. Europe — a major trade partner — remains economically fragile, while Japan has sunk into recession and Canada slipped into a downturn for part of this year.

Companies trimmed their stockpiles of goods between July and September, the government said last week. That cut economic growth during those three months at an annualized rate of 0.6 percentage points, even though overall growth advanced 2.1 percent.

Despite the dismal outlook from the ISM report, there is evidence that some manufacturers are adjusting to these challenging conditions. □

Syria's al-Qaida branch releases captive Lebanese soldiers

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria released more than a dozen Lebanese soldiers and police it has held for more than a year on Tuesday as part of a Qatar-brokered deal in which Lebanon freed at least 11 prisoners, including a former wife of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

The release caps Lebanon's lengthy ordeal over the fate of its soldiers while also providing the al-Qaida branch, known as the Nusra Front, with new leverage as a group that can be negotiated with.

"My happiness is beyond description," said a Lebanese policeman, one of the 16 released on Tuesday, shortly after he was brought to the point where the exchange took place in the eastern town of Arsal, near the Syrian border. Families and friends of the abducted soldiers and policemen, who have held a months-long sit-in in downtown Beirut, broke into a dance and cheered as news of the release reached them. Families were showered

with rose petals and friends passed around sweets to the media and visitors who showed up to offer congratulations.

Earlier in the day, masked Nusra Front fighters brought the captive troops in three pickup trucks to a meeting point on the edge of Arsal to be handed over to Lebanese authorities, who were waiting along with Red Cross vehicles and the 11 prisoners who were part of the exchange.

Militants waving black al-Qaida flags fanned out across the area, with several taking positions on the roof of a building overlooking the location. The deal went ahead after trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered Arsal as part of the deal. Later Tuesday, Qatar's Foreign Ministry acknowledged that it had brokered the deal, saying it had received requests from the Lebanese government to negotiate.

The Gulf nation, a strong supporter of insurgents fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad, relishes its role as a regional mediator and maintains channels to a broad range of parties, including Islamic



The Lebanese policeman and army soldiers who were kidnapped by Nusra Front, gather for a family picture with the Lebanese officials and the Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam, center background, at the government palace, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015.

(AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

militant groups like the Afghan Taliban.

"Qatar pressured Nusra Front to end this crisis in order to introduce the Nusra Front as a group that negotiates. This is linked to the Vienna talks," said Radwan Mortada, an expert on jihadi groups who writes for Lebanon's Al-Akhbar daily newspaper.

Murtada was referring to a

peace plan agreed to last month by 17 nations meeting in Vienna that sets a Jan. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations between Assad's government and opposition groups.

The Nusra Front is not expected to take part in the talks as it is considered a terrorist organization by most countries, including the United States and Rus-

sia. Syria's main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, has called on the Nusra Front to disassociate itself from the global network founded by Osama bin Laden. Nusra Front, one of the most powerful factions in the country, has so far refused to cut its links with al-Qaida or abandon its jihadi ideology. □

German Cabinet OKs military mission against IS in Syria

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The German Cabinet approved plans Tuesday to commit up to 1,200 soldiers to support the international coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria. The mandate still requires parliamentary clearance but Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing coalition has a huge majority and its approval looks assured. Senior lawmakers from her conservative bloc

expected a vote on Friday. Following the Paris attacks, Merkel agreed to honor a request from France to provide support for its operations against IS in Syria. Germany plans to send up to six Tornado reconnaissance planes, tanker aircraft and a frigate to help protect the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle in the eastern Mediterranean, but won't actively engage in combat.

Two Tornados and a tanker

could be sent to Turkey's Incirlik air base next week if parliamentary approval comes this week, though for logistical reasons reconnaissance flights won't start before January, Defense Ministry spokesman Jens Flosdorff said.

Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told the daily Bild he doesn't expect Germany to have 1,200 soldiers participating at any one time. He said that upper limit includes a

significant "safety buffer." "We are doing what is militarily needed, what we can do best and can accept politically," he said.

Left-leaning opposition parties in Parliament are deeply skeptical, questioning whether there is sufficient legal basis for the move. "The legal question is not the only one," Simone Peter, a leader of the Greens, told ARD television. "We say clearly that this deployment also has

no political aim, no political concept, and so it is irresponsible." The German military's biggest current foreign deployment is in NATO's Resolute Support training mission in Afghanistan, where it has just under 1,000 troops. It had some 5,000 soldiers there at the height of the previous combat mission.

Germany also plans to increase its involvement in Mali, where it currently has just over 200 soldiers. □



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Japan probes mystery boats carrying dead bodies off coast

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — They drift into seas near Japan by the dozens every year, ghostly wrecked ships thought to come from impoverished North Korea.

Japanese authorities said Tuesday they are investigating nearly a dozen wooden boats carrying decomposing bodies that were found off the country's northwestern coast over the past month.

In most cases, the bodies are in such bad shape after being at sea for weeks that it's been impossible to determine their cause of death, officials say.

On Nov. 20, officials found 10 bodies in three boats off the coast of Ishikawa prefecture. Two days later, another wooden boat was found off nearby Fukui prefecture with six skulls, one nearly intact body with a head, and various other bones and remains, coast guard official Yuka Amao told The Associated Press.

Coast guard officials said at least 11 shoddy fishing boats carrying the bodies have arrived since late October. Most are carrying

equipment, nets and signs written in Korean, including one carrying a sign saying "Korean People's Army," the North Korean army.

The officials said they could not say for certain, but the poor condition and small size of the 10- to 12-meter-long (33-foot- to 40-foot-long) vessels are not typical of South Korea or Japan, said coast guard spokesman Yoshiaki Hiroto. He said evidence suggests the boats are from the Korean Peninsula, though he declined to identify the country.

The recent spate of arrivals has drawn attention, though such discoveries are not out of the ordinary: dozens of such wrecked boats drift toward the Japan every year.

So far this year, 34 mystery boats have drifted over, including the 11 found between late October and November. Last year, Japan found 65 of them. In 2013, there were 80, according to the coast guard. The number tends to rise during the fall and winter season because of prevailing winds from the northwest, Hiroto said.



This photo shows a ship of unknown nationality in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, central Japan. Japanese authorities are investigating nearly a dozen wooden boats carrying decomposing bodies found drifting off the northwestern coast over the past month. Coast Guard officials said Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, they have found at least 11 shoddy boats, carrying the bodies of unknown nationality since late October.

(Kyodo News via AP)

In recent years, fishermen from food-short North Korea have increasingly forayed into Japanese waters hunting squid, and some of the boats found adrift have been carrying squid-catching equipment. They are usually ordered away when caught by the Japanese coast guard since the two countries lack a fishing agreement. □

Pipe bomb explodes in Istanbul, wounding 5

MEHMET GUZEL

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A pipe bomb left on a highway overpass near an Istanbul subway station exploded Tuesday, wounding five people, a local official said. The blast caused some panic in the city, which is on edge following a spate of deadly bombings in Turkey. The bomb was left at the start of the evening rush hour near the Bayrampasa subway station on Istanbul's European side, said

Atila Aydinler, the mayor for Istanbul's Bayrampasa district, who said five people were hurt.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The private Dogan news agency said the explosion occurred seconds after a bus carrying police drove past, suggesting that police could have been the target of the attack.

Aydinler said a number of vehicles were damaged in the blast, including a bus and a car. Authorities deployed riot police with

shields to secure the perimeter of the site in case of a second blast.

Kurdish rebels fighting Turkey for autonomy in the mainly Kurdish southeast of the country have carried out bombings in Istanbul in the past and frequently target Turkey's security forces. Fighting between rebels belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and government forces flared up again in July, killing hundreds of people and derailling a fragile peace process with the Kurds. □

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Chinese President Xi Jinping, centre, is welcomed upon his arrival in Harare, Zimbabwe, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. Jinping is in Zimbabwe for a two day State visit during which he is set to sign some bilateral agreements aimed at strengthening relationships between the two countries. (AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping welcomed in cash-strapped Zimbabwe

FARAI MUTSAKA
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— Thousands of people lined Harare's roads and welcomed Chinese president Xi Jinping, whose visit has raised hopes that China will help stabilize Zimbabwe's faltering economy. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe greeted Xi at the airport, where some immigration signs are in Chinese, indicating China's importance to this southern African country.

Xi inspected a guard of honor at the airport but did not speak on his arrival. He is expected to address a joint press conference with Mugabe after signing economic deals later on Tuesday.

China is Zimbabwe's biggest foreign investor,

pumping in \$600 million in 2013, according to Chinese ambassador to Harare Huang Ping. Mugabe and Xi are expected to sign several "mega deals," said Ping.

Chinese nationals, Zimbabwean schoolchildren and people wearing shirts of Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party held Zimbabwe and Chinese flags for up to 10 kilometers (6 miles) along the road to Harare International Airport. Others wore T-shirts praising the friendship between Zimbabwe and China.

Xi is in Zimbabwe until Wednesday before heading to South Africa for a forum on cooperation between Africa and China as he works to strengthen ties with this continent that is a key supplier to Beijing of oil, minerals, tobacco and

cotton.

China's growth in Africa has slowed over the past two years as the weakening Chinese economy demands fewer of Africa's resources, although overall trade topped \$200 billion last year.

Mugabe, whose country is struggling with mass company closures, high unemployment, low liquidity and foreign direct investment and food shortages, has said he and the Chinese leader will discuss "some of the projects and programs we want China to assist us in undertaking."

China's imports from Zimbabwe include gold, diamonds, platinum, tobacco, nickel and chrome. China has invested in construction, energy and telecommunications projects in Zimbabwe. □

AP: Deal reached in Syria's Homs for fighters to leave

ALBERT AJI
BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A deal has been reached for thousands of insurgents to leave the last opposition-held neighborhood in the central city of Homs and for state institutions to return to the area, an opposition monitoring group and a Syrian official said Tuesday.

Homs residents were among the first to rise up against President Bashar Assad in 2011, and the city was once known as "the capital of the revolution." Government forces gradually retook the entire city except for the Waer neighborhood, where the latest deal was reached. The departure of the insurgents will leave Syria's third largest city under complete government control.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said some 3,200 fighters will leave Waer for other areas in Syria held by insurgents. The group said the deal, agreed to by the government and several rebel factions, will also include a cease-fire, release of prisoners and the return of state institutions.

Homs Governor Talal Barrazi told The Associated Press that the implementation of the deal will begin early next week and take a maximum of two months.

Assad loyalists have been blockading Waer since early 2013, only occasionally allowing in food. The area has seen sporadic clashes over the past two years.

Barrazi said some 60,000 people are still living in Waer, and that after the militants leave it will be easier to send food and other supplies into the neighborhood. He added that an aid convoy entered Waer on Monday and another was sent in last week.

Waer-based opposition activist Bebars al-Talawy said there are about 45 militant factions in Waer and they all agreed to the deal. He said the most prominent are al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, the Nusra Front, as well as the powerful ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham.

In May 2014, some 1,200 fighters and civilians left central Homs in a similar deal. On Monday, some 100 opposition fighters left the western Damascus suburb of Qudsaya as part of a deal to return the area to government control, state news agency SANA said. It added that more fighters will leave on Tuesday. Syria's conflict has killed more than 250,000 people and generated more than four million refugees. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have fled to Europe in recent months, part of the largest refugee flow since World War II. In an interview with Czech TV aired Tuesday, Assad said there could be "terrorists" among those fleeing the civil war. □

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Laura & Dominio Bucciero, from Napels Italy on their honeymoon:

"First time in Aruba, we are here for our honeymoon and staying for a week. The tour is very interesting, even though I don't perfectly understand English. We have Aloe in Italy but there it's not such good quality as the Aloe here. I have purchased the hand and body lotion because I don't really sunburn but still want very smooth and hydrated skin." If you want to experience this unique and authentic experience come visit us during your stay here on Aruba! The FREE tour & museum are open **Monday thru Friday from 8 am. to 5 pm. and Saturday from 9 am. – 5 pm.** If you are interested in learning more about Aruba Aloe products you can also visit www.arubaaloe.com. We hope to see you soon!

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Haiti opposition says transitional government may be needed



A man is detained carrying two machetes in his pants during a protest against the official election results, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP) — Eight candidates in last month's disputed presidential vote are demanding changes in Haiti's electoral council and national police department. And if that doesn't happen by next month, they are calling for a transitional government to oversee new general elections.

Among those signing early Monday's declaration was Jude Celestin, the second-place finisher who is due to face the government-backed candidate, Jovenel Moise, in a Dec. 27 runoff. The ultimatum throws that runoff into question. The Group of Eight alliance, which includes seven of the top 10 vote-getters in the Oct. 25 first round, said that without

"major changes ... fair, free and democratic elections" cannot be held while outgoing President Michel Martelly is in power. The eight said a transitional government would be charged with adopting a new constitution, making various reforms and organizing "credible" general elections within two years. They did not specify how it might be formed.

The eight have been demanding an independent recount due to what they assert was "massive fraud" in favor of Moise. But election authorities say the vote was a success and that fraud allegations have been properly investigated. They also say they lack the authority to appoint an independent panel to verify results. Pierre-Louis Opont, president of the Provisional Electoral Council, told reporters at a Monday press conference that the next round will take place and the final results of the October vote "are not going to change."

He suggested the Group of Eight ultimatum was a political strategy and said the council would not get involved.

Moise's well-financed Tet Kale party campaign has repeatedly denied accusations that it manipulated voting or the ballot count. The Electoral Council, which oversees the entire election process, said the agricultural entrepreneur chosen by Martelly to be his successor had nearly 33 percent of the vote and compared to 25 percent for Celestin, a former state construction chief who was the government-backed candidate five years ago.

While many Haitians hoped that elections would end years of political gridlock,

the official results have instead brought a renewed surge of paralyzing street protests.

The Group of Eight is calling for the protests to continue, saying people should not "cede to blackmail, intimidation and manipulation."

A recent poll by the independent research group Igarape Institute found deep public suspicion of the October election. A U.S. delegation of election monitors from the National Lawyers Guild and International Association of Democratic Lawyers Delegation said it "fell far short of minimum standards for fair elections."

But observers from the Organization of American States said the results appeared to be in line with what they saw on election day.

On Monday, officials at the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. State Department's Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator referred all comment to the Haitian government. The U.S. contributed over \$30 million to fund the three-round electoral process in Haiti.

Under Haitian electoral law, if a candidate selected for the runoff withdraws, he would be replaced by the next contender in line. The third-place finisher, former Sen. Moise Jean-Charles, belongs to the opposition alliance. The fourth-place finisher, Maryse Narcisse of the Fanmi Lavalas party founded by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, is not a member of the alliance.

Haiti's constitution says the country's prime minister would lead any transitional government as provisional president. □

Puerto Rico makes last minute debt payment

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico has narrowly avoided a multimillion-dollar default by announcing a last-minute bond payment. Still, Gov. Alejandro

Garcia Padilla testified at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that the island is facing a liquidity crunch. He says the government has no cash left.

Puerto Rico officials have not yet said where they obtained the money to make the \$355 million payment due Tuesday. Garcia signed an executive or-

der that allows the island's Treasury Department to retain certain revenues slated for specific public agencies to help pay Puerto Rico's debt. □



Lionfish and Wine Tasting: Fundraising Never Tasted So Good!



-Aruba Wine And Dine and Aruba Marine Park Foundation host a successful Fundraising Event.

PALM BEACH - To create more awareness and raise funds, Aruba's Marine Park Foundation hosted a sold out and thoroughly enjoyable Lionfish and Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event beside the Hadicurari pier.

150 Party Goers, 130 Bottles of Wine, 100 Kilos of Lionfish. Hundreds of Wine glasses were raised as a steady stream of lively party goers joined the Aruba Marine Park Foundation's Lionfish and Wine Tasting Event held upstairs at Hadicurari's Clubhouse on Sunday evening.

Continued on page 15



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ATA NL Participates in JFK Greatest Man of the Year Awards



AMSTERDAM - ATA Netherlands teamed up with luxury men's magazine JFK Magazine recently at this year's "Greatest Man of the Year" Awards," a popular, well publicized event held in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The prize is awarded to a male Dutch celebrity who has made huge strides in their area of expertise over the past year. This year, internationally renowned

DJ Armin van Buuren was the winner at this event attended primarily by high-profile male celebrities and stay at the Hyatt, a special island tour with De Palm Tours, three dinners at fine restaurants, and a golf clin-



businessmen. An important aspect of the awards night is a special auction for charity, in which ATA NL took part. They auctioned off a special "Aruba active trip" consisting of a seven-day

ic and windsurf lesson. During the auction, a short video on Aruba was shown in the background. In addition to exposure that night, Aruba will have a full page spread in JFK Magazine. □

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Lion fish

Continued from page 13

Johny Tromp contributed lovely steel pan rhythms and Marine Biologist, Byron Boekhoudt proved to party goers why we need to request more Lionfish on our favorite restaurants menus. To prove his point, Aruba's very best sushi was created by the uber-talented Adriani Geerman of ESushi Shap, from Tanki Leendert. Adriani pleased party goers with seven of his popular restaurant's most requested Lionfish rolls. ESushi Shap blends effortlessly, Japanese cuisine with Caribbean flair and Adriani's obsession for truly great Sushi is spot on. You need to go! Under the direction of Aruba Wine and Dine Food and Beverage Manager, Ron Van der Put, the Aruba Wine and Dine team of professionals shined true to form with Chefs Ronald Van Hasenbroek, Sandro Herold and Hermes Solano Calvan pleasing the eco-conscious guests by pre-



paring generous amounts of tasty Lionfish Ceviche, tender Lionfish Fritters and yummy Mini Lionfish Sliders and presented in such an impressive way. Bringing more "wow" factor to our culinary event was Chef Erwin Huskens of Screaming Eagle Fine Dining Restaurant who served up his love for cooking as he circulated his creative rendition of a Peruvian Passion Causa paired with his elegant pairing choice

of Coastal Ridge Riesling from California. A generous wine tasting donated by Romar Trading was presented by talented sommelier, Feranda Gimenez of Mendoza, Argentina who kept wine glasses full of Casillero del Diablo Pinot Noir from Chile, Frontera Chardonnay from Chile, Frontera Sauvignon Blanc and a Coastal Ridge Riesling from California. To assist the remarkable Feranda, spirits were further

buoyed by Clive Faustin, Romar Trading. Castro Perez of Aruba Reef Care Foundation, Byron Boekhoudt the Aruba Marine Park Foundation Treasurer and Volunteer Lionfish Hunter and avid chef, Ilja Cybulski worked the crowd of party goers, giving us more good reasons why we should be requesting Lionfish on more of Aruba's restaurant's menus. "Lionfish tastes better than frozen farmed fish product

and fish that is caught by nets and eating Lionfish will help the reef maintain its balance, explains Ilja who reminded guests to support our local fisherman in their mission to eradicate the menace lionfish from our reefs by eating them. Also seen enjoying the evening's finger foods were several other Horeca chefs and friends, dozens of Volunteer Lionfish Hunters and the creative Joa Beke of D'Art and Xiomara Beke of Grafficas Aruba who most generously sponsored the Aruba Marine Park artwork and printing. Co-organizers Carla Cavallaro of the Jolly Pirates and Byron were overwhelmed with the island's support and happy to click wine glasses with party goers for this great cause. Proceeds raised from the Lionfish and Wine Tasting Event will go towards creating more awareness and educational programs and protection efforts to preserve Aruba's spectacular underwater landscapes of coral reefs. □

Linda and Kimberly of Tennessee Had Major Fun at Fishes & More



PALM BEACH - They are on Aruba for the first time on a girls' trip in the sun, Linda Rycher and Kimberly Kirk from Tennessee. Through Facebook they found Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, so the two decided to give it a try.

Linda and Kimberly chose the surf and turf and the lobster and turf and were not sorry for one bit: the food was delicious, the service wonderful and the live music outstanding. At the Arawak Garden one finds several great restaurants, small shops and nightly live music; the Garden is locat-

ed across from the Occidental Resort on the hi-rise strip, so in walking distance of the large hotels. We hope that Linda and Kimberly will be visiting the island in the future now that they have got a good taste of it. So come back soon, girls, and have a great Holiday Season at home. □

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Tiger Woods watches a shot from the fairway at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C. Woods painted a bleak picture Tuesday on when he can return to golf.

(AP Photo/Rob Brown)

Woods' Woes

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— Tiger Woods painted a bleak picture Tuesday on when he can return to golf or even get back to doing anything more than just walking.

Woods had two back surgeries in a span of 18 months followed by what he described only as another "procedure" in the same area last month. He has not started rehabilitation and does not know when his back will allow for that.

"The hardest part for me is there's really nothing I can look forward to, nothing I can build toward," Woods said. "It's just taking it literally just day by day and week by week and time by time."

Woods is at the Hero World Challenge as the tournament host, not one of the 18 players at Albany Golf Club. The only time he touched a club was to pose for a photo, and he leaned on it while talking to Justin Rose and Zach Johnson on the putting green.

Continued on page 18



Gold Rush

Warriors outlast Jazz in tough win, move to 19-0

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, shoots as Utah Jazz guard Raul Neto, right, defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Salt Lake City. Associated Press Page 20

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Tiger Woods has no timetable on healing or playing

Continued from page 17

A month away from turning 40, the smile did come as easily for Woods. He has not competed since Aug. 23 at the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he attracted record crowds in his first appearance and played his best golf of a bad year. He went into the final round two shots behind and tied for 10th.

He didn't realize that would be his last event of the year, and last tournament for longer than he knows.

"Was it a surprise? Yeah," Woods said. "Because as I was alluding to that week and subsequent weeks, I felt my hip was killing me and I didn't think it was coming from my back. We worked out in the trailer each and every day and just tried to loosen up my hip. And OK, fine, we went out and played. But I didn't feel any back discomfort. "Come to find out it wasn't my hip, it was coming from my back."

He had another microdiscectomy Sept. 16 and then he revealed Oct. 30 another "procedure," which he



Tiger Woods reacts after missing a putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C. Woods painted a bleak picture Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, on when he can return to golf or even get back to doing anything more than just walking. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

said was in the same spot. Asked the degree to which he can function, Woods said, "I walk. I walk and I walk some more."

Woods, who has spent 683 weeks at No. 1 in the world ranking, is now at No. 400, his lowest as a professional. He has not won since the Bridgestone Invitational in 2013, when he was the PGA Tour player of the year.

And now he can't even begin to imagine when he

might play again.

"I have no answer for that, and neither does my surgeon or my physios," he said. "There is no timetable."

Woods said this was different from his four knee surgeries, even the worst one in 2008 after he won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines for his 14th major. He had a reconstruction of his left knee and was told it would be about nine months before

he could get back. Woods returned eight months later and won in his third start.

"For nerves, there are really no timetables and therein lies the tricky part of it because you can come back earlier or you can come back later. It just depends on how the nerve heals and how it settles," he said. Would he be surprised if he was nothing more than a host at the Hero World Challenge a year from now? He couldn't answer it.

"So where is the light at the end of the tunnel? I don't know, so that's been hard," Woods said. "I had to reset the clock each and every day and OK, here we go. This is a new day and this is taken for what it is. I listen to my surgeon. I listen to my physios and we just

take it day by day. Hopefully, the day-by-day adds up to something positive here soon."

He agreed to be a vice captain under Davis Love III at the Ryder Cup next year, though Woods still wants to play in the matches. He says it has been two months since he hit a golf ball — "a chip shot left handed" — and that he passes most his time playing video games.

Woods said he wants to play again and that anything he accomplishes the rest of his career "will be gravy."

But he sounded at peace with what he already has done — 79 career victories on the PGA Tour (second only to the 82 by Sam Snead), 14 majors (second to 18 by Jack Nicklaus), PGA Tour player of the year a record 11 times.

"I've had a pretty good career for my 20s and 30s," he said. "For my 20 years out here, I think I've achieved a lot, and if that's all it entails, then I've had a pretty good run. But I'm hoping that's not it. I'm hoping that I can get back out here and compete against these guys. I really do miss it."

The first step? Getting healthy enough to play soccer with his two children.

"If I can get to that, then we can start talking about golf," he said. "But let me get to where I can pass the time and really be a part of my kids' life in the way that I want to be part of it physically, not just as a cheerleader."

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Ravens win as time expires on blocked field goal return

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Will Hill returned a blocked field goal 64 yards for a touchdown as time expired, giving the Baltimore Ravens a 33-27 win Monday over the luckless Cleveland Browns. The Browns, meanwhile, lost their sixth straight game along with starting quarterback Josh McCown.

Travis Coons lined up to kick a potential game-winning 51-yard field goal with 3 seconds to go for the Browns (2-9), but it was deflected by defensive end Brent Urban, who was playing his first NFL game for the injury-riddled Ravens (4-7). Hill scooped it up and rumbled down the left sideline for an improbable win, stunning a Cleveland crowd which moments earlier was ready to celebrate. Ravens quarterback Matt Schaub, making his first start since 2013, threw two touchdown passes. McCown injured his collarbone in the fourth quarter and was replaced by Austin Davis, whose 42-yard TD pass to Travis Benjamin tied it with 1:47 remaining.

The Browns appeared to be in position to pull out a comeback win after cornerback Tramont Williams intercepted Schaub with 50 seconds left at Baltimore's 46. But as Cleveland attempted to get closer for Coons, Davis wasted valuable time because of a commu-

nication issue with the sideline and the QB couldn't get out of bounds after a scramble, forcing the Browns to call a timeout. But as Coons, who was 18 for 18 this season, lined up for his long kick, it appeared the Ravens were on their way to another close loss. All 11 of Baltimore's games have been decided by less than eight points, and the Ravens have been on the wrong side of most of those.

However, Urban got some penetration on the line and got his hand on Coon's low kick. Hill took it from there, finding his way to the end zone.

Schaub finished 20 of 34 for 232 yards and his first TDs since Dec. 23, 2013.

McCown, who has played hurt most of this season and was only starting because Johnny Manziel got benched, was 21 of 38 for 212 yards and a TD.

Cleveland linebacker Karlos Dansby picked off Schaub and returned it 52 yards for a TD in the third quarter to give the Browns a 20-17 lead, the first time they've been ahead in a game since the first half against Arizona on Nov. 1 — a span of more than 173 minutes.

But they weren't up for long as Schaub countered with his second scoring pass, a 15-yarder to Kamar Aiken to put the Ravens ahead 24-20 with 5:30 left in the third quarter. □



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NBA Capsules

Warriors win 19th straight, 106-103 over the Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 26 points as the Golden State Warriors held on for their NBA-record 19th consecutive win to start the season, 106-103 over the Utah Jazz on Monday night.

With the game tied at 101 with 51 seconds left, Curry hit a 3-pointer from the left wing to give the Warriors the lead. Rodney Hood scored 14 seconds later to bring the Jazz within one. After Curry missed a 3, the Jazz had a chance to take the lead, but Hood missed a 3 from the wing with 5 seconds left. Curry hit two free throws and Gordon Hayward's half-court heave at the buzzer fell way short.

Klay Thompson added 20 points for the Warriors, including four 3-pointers. Hayward led the Jazz with 24 points.

Derrick Favors gave Utah a 99-97 lead on a three-point play before Curry hit a 3. The Warriors have won 23 straight regular-season games dating to last season.

HAWKS 106, THUNDER 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Paul Millsap scored 26 points and Jeff Teague made all the big shots down the stretch, sending Atlanta to a victory that ended Oklahoma City's four-game winning streak.

Russell Westbrook had 34 points, including a drive with 2:49 remaining that gave the Thunder their first lead since scoring the opening basket. Westbrook knocked down a jumper to push Oklahoma City to a four-point lead. Teague took control from there. He finished with 25 points, while Al Horford added 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Kevin Durant, selected Western Conference player of the week after coming back from a left hamstring injury, had 25 points.

But the Thunder lost for the first time since he rejoined the lineup.

Westbrook also grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out seven assists.

CLIPPERS 102, TRAIL BLAZERS 87

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 23 points and DeAndre Jordan had a season-high 24 rebounds along with 18 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Portland for their third straight victory.

The Clippers barely out-rebounded Portland 55-54, the first time in 18 games this season that they had the advantage in that department — although they have finished on even terms three times.

BULLS 92, SPURS 89

CHICAGO (AP) — Pau Gasol had 18 points, 13 rebounds and three blocked shots, as the Bulls ended San Antonio's five-game winning streak.

Jimmy Butler scored 14

The Spurs had one last chance, but Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker each missed 3-point attempts in the final seconds. Parker's try was partially blocked by Derrick Rose, who finished with 11 points and six assists.

CELTICS 105, HEAT 95

MIAMI (AP) — Avery Bradley scored 25 points and forced a big turnover when he knocked away a pass by Dwyane Wade with a minute remaining, as Boston put all five starters in double figures against Miami.

Jared Sullinger had 17 points to help the Celtics snap a three-game road slide. Isaiah Thomas scored 16 while fellow starters Jae Crowder and Amir Johnson each added 13 for Boston. Evan Turner also had 13 off the bench.

Wade scored 30 for Miami, which cut a 14-point deficit to one in the fourth quarter but never led after halftime. Chris Bosh played through an illness to add 21 points for the Heat.

Miami made it a one-possession game on five separate occasions in the final 14 minutes, and Boston scored on its ensuing trip every time. The first three of those were all on jumpers by Bradley, two of them being 3-pointers.

BUCKS 92, NUGGETS 74

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Greg Monroe scored 18 points and Milwaukee forced 24 turnovers that led to 35 points in handing Denver its seventh consecutive loss.

Jabari Parker had 16 points and Michael Carter-Williams added 12 points and nine assists for the Bucks, who won for only the second time in eight games. Danilo Gallinari scored 13 points and Kenneth Faried added 11 for the Nuggets, who managed just 30 points in the second half after scoring only five in the third quarter of its previous

game, a 92-81 loss at Dallas on Saturday.

PISTONS 116, ROCKETS 105

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Reggie Jackson had 31 points, and Andre Drummond added 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Pistons beat the Rockets.

The Pistons built a 23-point lead in the first half before the Rockets got back into the game by constantly intentionally fouling Drummond — he went 4-for-18 from the line. Houston was never able to get within one possession.

Rookie Stanley Johnson had 19 points and a career-high 10 rebounds for Detroit, while James Harden scored 29 for the Rockets.

KINGS 112, DALLAS 98

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins scored 16 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Sacramento Kings beat the struggling Dallas Mavericks.

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and Rudy Gay added 20 for the Kings, who had dropped six straight to Dallas and 21 of the previous 23 meetings. Sacramento outscored the Mavericks 22-13 in the third to take the lead for good.

Chandler Parsons had 14 points for the Mavericks. Dirk Nowitzki and Zaza Pachulia both scored 13.

Dallas, which has dropped four of five, missed 28 of 37 attempts from 3-point range.

Darren Collison added 15 points and Omri Casspi 10 for the Kings. Cousins grabbed nine rebounds and Rondo had five assists.

In other NBA games it was Boston 105, Miami 95; Detroit 116, Houston 105; Chicago 92, San Antonio 89; Milwaukee 92, Denver 74; Atlanta 106, Oklahoma City 100; Golden State 106, Utah 103; Sacramento 112, Dallas 98; and L.A. Clippers 102, Portland 87. □



Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) lays the ball up as Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015, in Salt Lake City.
Associated Press

Griffin, who began the day with an NBA-best .548 field goal percentage, made eight of 19 shots and grabbed eight boards. Chris Paul had 10 points and six assists in 24 minutes, leaving in the third quarter because of a strained rib muscle.

Griffin's 450 points are the most by a Clippers player through the first 18 games of a season since the franchise relocated from San Diego to Los Angeles in 1984-85.

points and reserve Doug McDermott had 12 for Chicago in the opener of a four-game homestand. Joakim Noah contributed eight points, seven assists and 11 rebounds in 24 minutes off the bench.

Gasol blocked LaMarcus Aldridge on a drive with 1:06 left, and then hit one of two foul shots on the other end for a 90-89 lead. After Manu Ginobili missed for San Antonio, Butler hit two free throws with 10.6 seconds left.



NHL Capsules

Sparks makes 24 saves in debut, Maple Leafs beat Oilers 3-0



Colorado Avalanche defenseman Francois Beauchemin, left, uses the boards to move the puck down the ice and around New York Islanders center Ryan Strome (18) in the third period of an NHL hockey game in New York, Monday, Nov. 30, 2015. The Islanders defeated the Avalanche 5-3. Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Garret Sparks became the first Maple Leafs goalie with a shut-out in his NHL debut, lifting Toronto over the Edmonton Oilers 3-0 on Monday.

Sparks made 24 saves in the Leafs' first shutout since Jonathan Bernier blanked the Dallas Stars on Dec. 23, 2014.

Leo Komarov scored twice and Nazem Kadri also had a goal to help Toronto snap a three-game skid. James van Riemsdyk added three assists.

Anders Nilsson turned away 23 of 25 shots and the Oilers wrapped up their five-game trip at 1-3-1.

Both teams had only a shot apiece through the first 10 minutes.

Komarov opened the scoring with his team-leading and career high ninth goal of the season on the power play 6:45 into the first.

DUCKS 4, CANUCKS 0

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — John Gibson made 25 saves for his third career shutout to lead Anaheim over Vancouver.

Shawn Horcoff, Rickard Rakell, Jakob Silfverberg and Corey Perry scored and Anaheim won for only the second time in its last five games. 10 different Anaheim players had a point in its biggest rout of the season. Ryan Miller stopped 25 shots while Vancouver was shutout for the first time this season.

Gibson made his NHL de-

but against Vancouver in the 2014 playoffs, stopping all 18 shots to eliminate the Canucks. Gibson nearly had another shutout last Friday against the Chicago Blackhawks, the other team he has blanked during his brief career, but blew a 2-0 lead in that one.

Horcoff put Anaheim ahead just 1:19 into the opening period, taking Andrew Cogliano's pass and converting a one-timer.

RANGERS 4, HURRICANES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Mats Zuccarello and Oscar Lindberg scored first-period power-play goals as New York kept up its mastery of Carolina.

Chris Kreider and Derick Brassard also scored and

New York improved to 18-1-0 in its last 19 meetings with Carolina. The Rangers have won 11 straight against the Hurricanes at Madison Square Garden.

Henrik Lundqvist made 33 saves and the Rangers ended a three-game losing streak.

Jordan Stall, Victor Rask and Chris Terry scored for the Hurricanes. Carolina battled back from a 4-1 deficit to make it a contest at the end.

ISLANDERS 5, AVALANCHE 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Cal Clutterbuck broke a deadlock 1:52 into the third period as New York beat Colorado.

Kyle Okposo, Mikhail Grabovski, Casey Cizikas and Ryan Strome also

scored and the Islanders won for the third time in four games. Thomas Greiss stopped 25 shots.

Jarome Iginla, Nick Holden and former Islander Blake Comeau each scored for Colorado, but the Avalanche fell for the fifth time in their last seven games.

Off a faceoff win, Clutterbuck redirected Thomas Hickey's point shot past goalie Semyon Varlamov's glove. The goal was Clutterbuck's sixth of the season and the first of two third-period goals from the Isles' fourth line.

In other NHL games it was N.Y. Islanders 5, Colorado 3; N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 3; Toronto 3, Edmonton 0; and Anaheim 4, Vancouver 0. □

Hair of the Dog

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The Holidays are upon us and for many of us that means parties with lots of alcohol. Drinking alcohol in moderation can be fun and sociable, but, is alcohol healthy?

A Danish study found that "Wine drinkers had significantly lower mortality from both coronary heart disease and cancer than did non-wine drinkers." Beer and other alcohol drinkers enjoyed a smaller benefit.

This is good news for some; drinking with the doctor's permission! But wait; if you are not a drinker or suffer from liver disease, gastritis, or high blood pressure, it's not a good idea to start drinking alcohol for the health benefits. However, if you enjoy an occasional drink and are otherwise healthy, go back and read the first paragraph. Drinking "in moderation" is the key. The benefits are only effective when keeping to the recommended levels. To work the right way, alcohol intake should be spread over the whole week and binge sessions, like at a party should be avoided.

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), moderate is defined as 2 drinks a day if you're a male 65 and younger, or 1 drink a day if you're a female or a male 66 and older. 1 drink means 12 oz of beer, 4 oz of wine, 1.5 oz of 80-proof hard liquor, or 1 oz of 100-proof liquor.

Unfortunately, for

many having a good time means doing everything to excess which includes overindulgence in alcohol consumption and the ensuing effect of a hangover. A hangover is the result of a combination of alcohol toxicity, dehydration, and Vitamin A, B and C depletion all caused by alcohol metabolism on your system. The symptoms are usually a dry mouth, nausea, fatigue; dizziness and headache.

Over the years there have been many folk remedies for hangovers. Some of these "cures" come with the toast "The hair of the dog that bit me"! The homeopathic principle of "like cures like" advice given literally in ancient times, "If a dog bites you, put a hair of the dog into the wound" this was distorted to imply that drinking more alcohol would help your hangover.

Apart from the obvious effects, during a hangover you are suffering the effects of a mild overdose of a depressant drug, your nerves are reacting and you have also flushed vitamins and nutrients from your system causing a shock that your body is struggling to fix. This is why hangover symptoms often include disorientation and "the jitters".

Alcohol enters cells and is broken down into a toxin. Your liver converts this toxin into ammonia and acetic acid, which is non-toxic and can be used by

your body for energy. By the way, the other name for acetic acid is vinegar! In a hangover ammonia is metabolized in the brain which has only a limited capacity to remove the excess ammonia coming in.

For those of you really partying to overload who include cocaine the news gets worse. Alcohol and cocaine form a product in your body called cocaethylene. Abusers know that higher alcohol concentrations lead to higher blood cocaine levels. However, high levels of alcohol slow down cocaine metabolism. This slow down may explain why users feel an enhanced euphoria when using the drugs in combination. Regrettably, the risk a sudden death from a heart attack is greatly increased.

So what is a partygoer to do? The best advice is to drink alcohol IN MODERATION avoiding binge drinking, and take red wine in preference to other alcoholic drinks. It's not necessary to have an alcoholic beverage in hand during an entire party. We enjoy sparkling water with a lime between glasses of red wine when socializing. Always eat something either before or while you are drinking. If you have drunk large quantities of alcohol, drink plenty of water afterwards. This will counteract dehydration. Rather than drink coffee the morning after a drinking session, a breakfast consisting of complex carbohydrates, a whole grain cereal right for your metabolic type, a glass of fresh fruit juice and a cup of green tea should

bring your blood sugar level up to an acceptable level and help to rehydrate your body.

What not to do! Do not drink alcohol to try to neutralize your hangover. Bloody Mary's only make you progressively more useless as you drink more of them and slow down the healing process of your body. Do not waste your time with aspirin that will destroy your liver if combined with alcohol. Aspirin can cause sudden death at any time. So prevalent is death by aspirin that in the US that many aspirin induced deaths are listed on "cause" as "natural". Alcohol damages the liver; and aspirin damages the liver; but if you mix the two, the damage is much worse.

The most important natural supplement for a hangover is mineral water that helps rehydrate your body. Natural supplements that help neutralize alcohol byproducts and protect cells against the damaging effects of alcohol include vitamin C, B Complex, folic Acid, the amino acids SAME and glutathione, vitamin E, and selenium. We like to take extra vitamin C & B complex with a liter/qt of water before an evening of festivities. If more help is needed, we provide colon-hydro therapy in our clinic which can help flush out toxins and re-hydrate the body quickly.

Get The Point! The Holidays should be spent reconnecting with family and friends in a festive exchange. In ancient times, putting "the hair of the dog that bit you into the

wound" did not help prevent infection. Nothing is said about the dog biting you twice as you try to get some of its hair; which is what will happen if you try to cure your hangover with more alcohol. If the festivities have come back to bite you, or you are just looking for healthy ways to celebrate, we are open throughout the season to help you. Salud, Santé, Cheers, To Your Health!

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! *Gift Certificates & Health Products Available * Dr. Viana's BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine - Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, Ebook Holiday Special at www.amazon.com, check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingcenter

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For some people, the older the smartphone, the better

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Between splashy launches, lavish new-phone offers (get a free HDTV on activation!) and frequent software updates that slow down your old handset, it sometimes feels like the entire technology industry is pushing you to buy the latest smartphone. Yet some holdouts resist.

Take Zak Sommerfield, 35, a software analyst in New York, who has hung onto his LG Delight flip phone for five years, even though his friends and co-workers make fun of it. "I hate smartphones, I hate how they take over people's lives and they spend all their time looking at them," he says. "I'd love to stay on this phone forever."

People like Sommerfield are a rarity. More than 90 percent of smartphone users trade up for newer models within two years, says Ramon Llamas, who tracks mobile phones at research firm IDC. But a fraction of the population continues to cling to older phones, some 3 to 4 years old — or more.

These upgrade holdouts have different reasons for standing athwart technoprogress, yelling "Stop!" Some reject the trend toward ever-larger screens, preferring smaller phones that are harder to find these days. Others simply aren't wowed by the latest features, or see no reason to spend hundreds of dollars when their current phones still work fine.

"Just as we saw with PCs and tablets, lifetimes on people's devices are generally getting a bit longer," says Bob O'Donnell, chief analyst at Technalysis Research.

Every customer counts these days. Overall smartphone sales are slowing down — particularly in industrialized markets such as the U.S., where most people who want a smartphone already have one. IDC forecasts a 10 percent increase in worldwide smartphone sales this year, but that's slowed considerably from 27 percent growth in 2014. Some manufacturers have turned to emerging markets for new sales, but many customers there can afford only cheaper — and less profitable — devices. To keep making money on premium phones, Apple, Samsung and their rivals are counting on regular upgrades.

With its latest iPhones, Apple started an annual upgrade program that leases customers the latest models for a year. Upgrades are particularly important for Apple because iPhones account for more than half of its revenue.

Sprint and T-Mobile also have leasing options aimed at yearly iPhone upgrades, but Apple's new leasing option has put even more pressure on carriers. They depend on regular upgrades to keep existing customers and sell them more services, such as bigger data plans or cloud services and storage. Since a customer upgrades only once every two or three years, it's an "important moment to capitalize on" for carriers, says FBR analyst Daniel Ives.

To encourage upgrades, manufacturers have been packing new phones with cutting-edge hardware. The latest iPhones have better cameras and screen sensors to enable shortcuts and other menus with a hard press. Samsung won

critical acclaim for curved screens that spill over a phone's edges like a glassy waterfall.

Phones also get new system software every year, and many apps require the latest updates. Although many older phones can get the latest versions of Google's Android or Apple's iOS software, the updates can slow them down, and the phones sometimes don't support all the new features.

Not surprisingly, Sprint CEO Marcelo Claure argues that having the latest model is important to many people. Phones are "the most valued personal possession that we have," Claure said in an interview. "We use our phone to capture the memories of our lives." But O'Donnell of Technalysis says smartphone technology is "hitting the top of a curve." As a result, each new model brings tweaks and refinements rather than new must-have features.

"I think it's a little ridiculous to give up a perfectly good phone for a new one that is only slightly different," says Kelsey Scott, 25, from Hutchinson, Kansas, who has an iPhone 5S from 2013 and doesn't plan to upgrade.

And while many people upgraded last year when Apple made larger-size iPhones for the first time, matching what Samsung has long had, others prefer smaller phones. Apple still sells the 4-inch iPhone 5S, but the technology is two years old. The latest, fastest iPhones measure 4.7 inches and 5.5 inches diagonally. Nathan Jarus, 24, says he's been keeping his eyes open for inexpensive phones with 4-inch screens, but complains that "almost



In this Thursday, March 8, 2007, file photo, a C3 flip phone from Pantech is shown, on a keyboard for size comparison, in New York.

Associated Press

nobody seems to be making them." The computer science PhD candidate from outside Rolla, Missouri, still uses Google's discontinued 3.7-inch Nexus One phone from 2010.

Brett Shoemaker, 22, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a regular upgrader since the original iPhone debuted in 2007 — but stopped in his tracks with the 4-inch iPhone 5 in 2012.

Manufacturers are "forcing users into larger screen sizes for the latest and greatest technology" he says. "I'm contemplating not upgrading ever." Or even switching to a BlackBerry, he adds, only half-joking.

High-end phones start at a \$200, a subsidized price that requires a two-year service contract. More recently, though, wireless companies have been pushing people to pay full retail price — often around \$650 — via monthly installment plans. Although such deals also offer discounts on voice, text and data service, many people just see that they are paying more for the phone.

John O'Neill, 49, a tax analyst in Dallas, says he won't upgrade from his iPhone 4,

which he has had for nearly 5 years — mostly because he doesn't want to lose his \$30 unlimited data plan with Verizon. "I've looked around and nothing comes close," he said.

For Mary Reichard, 52, legal affairs reporter in Springfield, Missouri, the money and fear of the unknown that keeps her from upgrading from her iPhone 4s she has had for two years.

"I long for the old days of one land line and tiny monthly bills," she said. She also fears she might lose data if she upgrades. "I'm a baby boomer, so technology is still kind of scary." And some just feel too attached to their current smartphone to give it up. William Hurst, a 22-year-old student in Portland, Oregon, said he decided not to upgrade because he feels attached to his 3-year-old iPhone 5. He even likes its quirks like a lock screen button that doesn't fully work and a crack from when he dropped it on cement in his rush to get in line for a concert.

"I have lived two years of my life with this same iPhone and it's a part of who I am," he said. □

Wall Street off to solid start in December

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks started off December on a strong note, helped by improving economic data from Japan and Europe as well as hopes that the European Central Bank will expand its stimulus program. Trading remained relatively quiet ahead of the release later this week of the U.S. government's monthly jobs survey and a Federal Reserve meeting later this month.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 168.43 points, or 1 percent, to 17,888.35.

decisions from both central banks will be important in determining the fate of the market in the last month of 2015.

"As it has been most of this year, central banks are still running the show," said Samantha Azzarello, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds.

The ECB will decide on Thursday whether to expand its economic stimulus program, which functions similarly to the bond-buying program the Fed used after the financial crisis to keep long-term interest rates low. ECB head

5 percent.

This jobs report comes shortly before the Fed's two-day meeting later this month, where policymakers will debate moving interest rates in the opposite direction of the ECB: higher. Securities that allow investors to bet on which way the Fed will move rates are forecasting a 79 percent probability that the Fed will tighten. Unless Friday's jobs report is horrific, that is unlikely to change.

"Generally the last couple of weeks have been very quiet. We've been and will be in a holding pattern



Traders Thomas Kaye, center, and Frederick Reimer confer on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. Stocks started off December on a strong note, helped by improving economic data from Japan and Europe as well as hopes that the European Central Bank will expand its stimulus program. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 22.22 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,102.63 and the Nasdaq composite rose 47.64 points, or 0.9 percent, to 5,156.31.

Financial stocks were among the biggest gainers, helped by the prospect of higher interest rates. Banks are more profitable when interest rates rise because they can charge more to lend. JPMorgan Chase rose 93 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$67.61. Goldman Sachs rose \$3.05, or 1.6 percent, to \$193.07 and Bank of America rose 38 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$17.81.

Investors are keyed into both the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve this month. Policy

Mario Draghi has signaled the bank could expand its bond-buying program or even cut interest rates further.

Investors are so certain that Draghi will expand his program that data out Tuesday showing the unemployment rate in the 19-country eurozone edged down to a four-year low of 10.7 percent in October is not seen as likely to derail those measures. In the U.S., most of the focus will be on the November job's report, to be released Friday. Expectations are high. Economists expect that U.S. employers added 271,000 jobs last month, according to FactSet. The unemployment rate is expected remain at

head of the Fed's December meeting," said Ryan Larson, head of equity trading with RBC Global Asset Management.

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose 20 cents to \$41.85 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, which is used to price oil internationally, lost 17 cents to \$44.44 a barrel in London. Heating oil rose a cent to \$1.369 a gallon, wholesale gasoline rose six cents to \$1.363 a gallon and natural gas was roughly unchanged at \$2.231 per thousand cubic feet. U.S. government bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.14 percent from 2.21 percent. □

GM, Toyota sales rise in strong November for US auto industry

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — November used to be a slow month for U.S. car sales. Not anymore.

Black Friday promotions — some of which began well before Thanksgiving — were expected to push last month's sales to near-record levels. Car buying site Edmunds.com predicted sales of new cars and trucks will hit 1.33 million, eclipsing the previous November record set in 2001.

General Motors' sales rose 1.5 percent over last November, while Toyota and Fiat Chrysler's each saw 3 percent sales gains. Hyundai's sales jumped 12 percent, while Nissan's were up 4 percent. Ford's sales were flat.

Honda's sales fell 5 percent, hurt by lower CR-V sales. But the biggest sales declines were at Volkswagen. VW's U.S. sales plummeted almost 25 percent, hurt by the company's admission that its diesel vehicles cheated on emissions tests.

November was a notoriously slow sales month until about five years ago, when car dealers joined other retailers in promoting Black Friday, according to Edmunds analyst Jessica Caldwell. Now, like Amazon, Wal-Mart and others, dealers started promoting "Black Friday" deals as early as Halloween. Jeep offered zero percent financing for up to 75 months. GM teased savings of up to 20 percent off for its Buick, Chevrolet and GMC brands. Hyundai offered an extra \$500 on the Sonata sedan between Nov. 20 and Nov. 30.

Ford's U.S. sales chief Mark LaNeve said sales got progressively stronger as November progressed, and the last day of the month was one of the best days this year.

Deals can be dangerous for the auto industry because they cut into profits and lower vehicles' resale value. Incentives have been creeping upward since 2011; in November, they rose an estimated \$172 over last year to \$3,066 per vehicle, according to the car buying site TrueCar.com.

But Eric Lyman, vice president for industry insights at TrueCar, says the gradual increase isn't a worrisome trend for the industry. For one thing, companies are making more profit per vehicle than they used to because they're selling more SUVs and trucks. The average sale price of a vehicle last month was \$32,966, up 1 percent from the previous month.

Automakers are also trying to capture as many sales as they can in the boom years before sales inevitably slow. Rising interest rates, higher gas prices and other factors are all expected to stall auto sales sometime in the next few years.

"It's kind of like, make hay while the sun shines," Lyman said.

And the sun is certainly shining. Last week, sales forecasting firm LMC Automotive said sales are now likely to reach a record 17.5 million in 2015.

For November, automakers said:

— GM's sales rose 1.5 percent to 229,296. Chevrolet and Cadillac brand sales were up but fell at Buick and GMC. Sales of GM's best-seller, the Silverado pickup, rose 5 percent.

— Toyota's sales rose 3 percent to 189,517. In a sign of the impact of lower gas prices, sales of the RAV4 SUV jumped nearly 30 percent while Prius hybrid sales were down 10 percent. — Ford's sales were up less than 1 percent to 187,794. A 10-percent increase in F-Series pickup sales couldn't overcome lower sales of key vehicles like the Escape SUV and Fusion sedan. □

Samsung replaces mobile chief as smartphone lead dwindles

YOUKYUNG LEE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The Samsung conglomerate appointed a new mobile president at its flagship Samsung Electronics for the first time in six years after growth stalled at the world's largest smartphone maker.

Samsung said Tuesday that Koh Dongjin was promoted to president. He will replace Shin Jong-kyun as the head

of the mobile business at Samsung Electronics starting next year. The change was announced as part of annual management reshuffle at South Korea's top conglomerate.

Samsung Electronics' smartphone sales lead has been dwindling in the face of competition from Apple Inc. in the premium market and Chinese companies in cheaper devices. The management change

comes as Lee Jae-yong, the only son of ailing Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee, takes a bigger role in Samsung after his father suffered a heart attack in May last year.

Shin will step away from day-to-day operations and focus on long-term strategies. He keeps his title of CEO of the IT and mobile division that encompasses phone, network and computer businesses.

Koh, an engineer, was an executive vice president who led mobile research and development for the past year.

The 54-year-old has followed the typical career path of those who reach senior executive levels in South Korea: he joined Samsung Electronics in 1984 and over three decades worked his way through its development, human resources, product planning

and research departments. Samsung said he led the development of two flagship smartphones released this year, the Galaxy S6 and Galaxy Note 5. He was also behind development of the Samsung Pay mobile payments system.

Shin became the head of mobile in 2010. Three years later, Samsung was the world largest smartphone supplier despite being a latecomer behind Apple. □

Express Scripts offers low-cost alternative to Turing drug



This photo shows a building on the Express Scripts campus in Berkeley, Mo. Express Scripts Holding Co. said Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, that it will make a treatment for the rare infection toxoplasmosis that costs \$1 per pill available on its biggest formulary, or list of covered drugs, as an alternative to Daraprim, which is manufactured by Turing Pharmaceuticals and costs \$750 per pill.

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

The nation's biggest pharmacy benefits manager is muscling back into the debate over soaring drug costs by promoting a less-

expensive alternative to a life-saving medicine with a list price of \$750 per pill.

Express Scripts Holding Co. said Tuesday that it will make a treatment for the rare infection toxoplas-

mosis that costs \$1 per pill available on its biggest formulary, or list of covered drugs. Daraprim, the drug that costs \$750 per pill, comes from Turing Pharmaceuticals, which stirred out-

rage among doctors, patients and politicians when it bought rights to the pill earlier this year and then jacked up the price. The 62-year-old drug had been priced at \$13.50 per pill before that.

Other drugmakers have also recently purchased the rights to old, cheap medicines that are the only treatment for serious diseases and then hiked prices. The cost of some newer medications has raised questions as well, and drug prices consistently rank among the top public concerns, according to opinion polls. Express Scripts announced its decision the same day a bipartisan report from the Senate Finance Committee concluded that Gilead Sciences put profit ahead of patients in pricing its breakthrough hepatitis C treatment Sovaldi at \$1,000 per pill.

The Express Scripts decision means that a cheaper alternative to Daraprim

created by Imprimis Pharmaceuticals will now be available to about 25 million customers through its formulary. What those customers pay will depend on their insurance coverage. That could mean prescriptions that come with a co-payment as low as \$10 or \$20 for the whole bottle of pills. Express Scripts manages pharmacy benefits for customers like insurers and employers. It makes recommendations on drug coverage, and those customers can then customize the guidelines.

Leaders of the HIV Medicine Association and The Infectious Diseases Society of America said in an email that they are urging other pharmacy benefits managers and health insurers to make the Imprimis option available as well. They noted that care providers have faced "significant challenges" in obtaining the treatment for patients since Turing raised the price in August. □

Manchester City gets \$400M Chinese investment deal

ROB HARRIS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Manchester City announced Tuesday that a Chinese consortium is investing \$400 million to buy 13 percent of the Premier League club's umbrella organization in a deal that values the business at \$3 billion.

Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan bought City in 2008 for around \$400 million

and since then the club has expanded to create the City Football Group that includes teams in New York, Melbourne and Yokohama. China Media Capital Holdings and CITIC Capital are investing in the group after six months of talks and the deal remains subject to regulatory approval in some countries, City said.

City's injection of funding comes after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the

club during a four-day state visit to Britain in October. During Xi's visit, former City defender Sun Jihai, who made 130 appearances for the club between 2002 and 2008, was inducted to the Manchester-based National Football Museum's Hall of Fame. He was also appointed a club ambassador in China in September. Though long overshadowed in Manchester by the more illustrious United,

City's value as a business is now closer to its neighbor following the Chinese investment. United, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, is currently valued at \$3.05 billion.

"Our belief is that we now have an unrivalled platform to grow CFG, our clubs and companies both in China and internationally, and we will be working hard with our new partners to realize the potential that this deal

creates," City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said. CMC Chairman Ruigang Li said the consortium envisaged "unprecedented growth opportunities" from the investment that will benefit Chinese football.

"We and our consortium partner CITIC Capital also see this investment as a prime opportunity for furthering the contribution of China to the global football family," he said. □

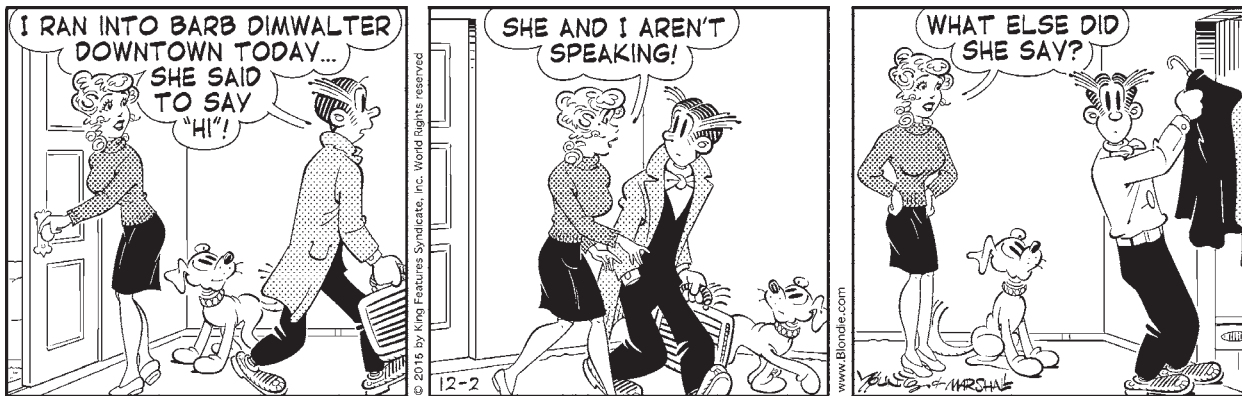
Mutts



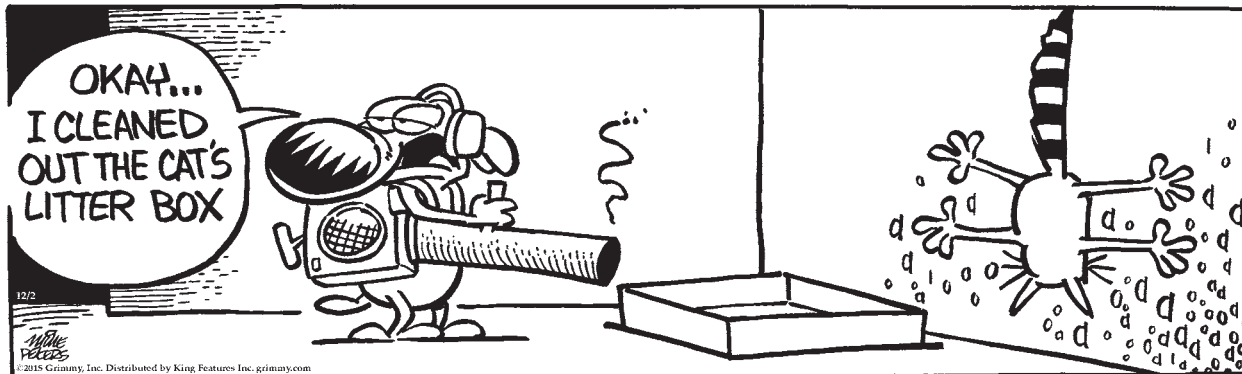
6 Chix



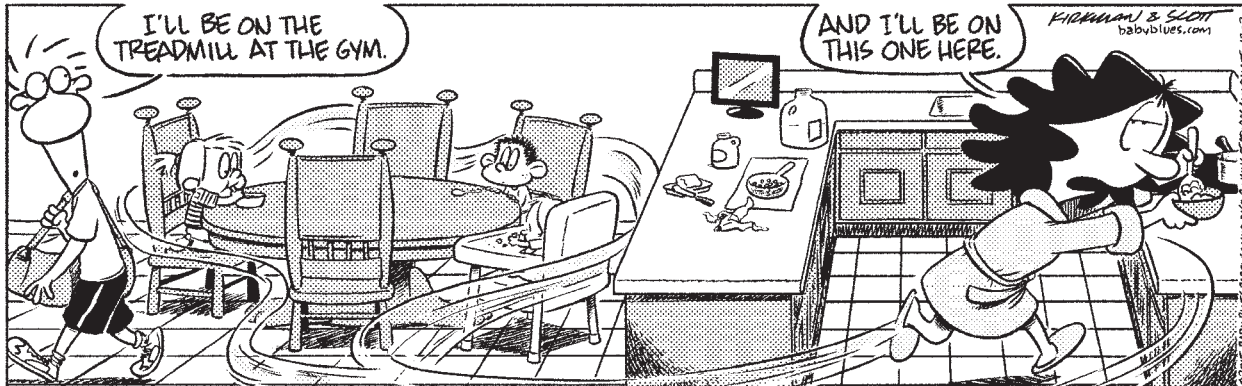
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				5	8				
				9		2	7		
					3	1			
3	7	1				4	2		
6			1				9	3	
	2			7	3	8			4
	3								8
		9							5
			4	5	9	1	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

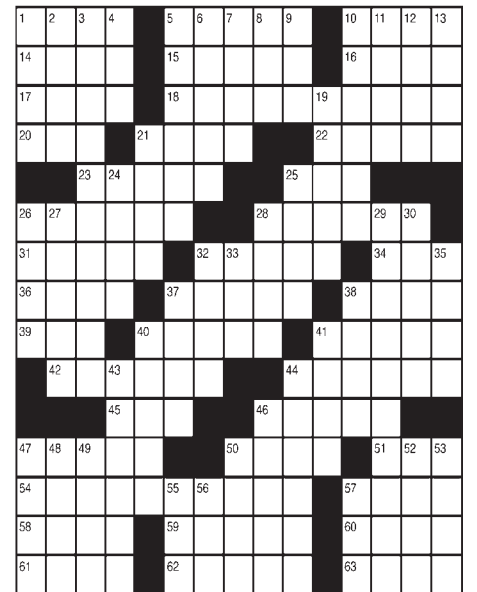
7	3	4	5	6	1	8	9	2
6	8	9	4	2	7	3	1	5
1	2	5	8	9	3	4	7	6
3	7	1	9	8	6	5	2	4
9	4	8	7	5	2	6	3	1
2	5	6	3	1	4	9	8	7
4	6	3	2	7	9	1	5	8
5	9	2	1	4	8	7	6	3
8	1	7	6	3	5	2	4	9

ACROSS

- Join metals by heating; fuse
- Fourth month
- Male deer
- Enthusiastic
- Male bee
- Ship framework
- Rescue
- Open to attack
- Greek letter
- Grape bearer
- ___ a hard drive; clear all data
- Female relative
- A-E connection
- MBA or PhD
- Criticizes
- Mistake
- Comic ___; "Peanuts," e.g.
- Curved bone
- Crazy as a ___
- Inexpensive
- Roy's riding companion
- Wedding words
- Bush or tree
- Main field of study
- Insignia
- Trustworthy
- Clumsy fellow
- Purple shade
- Sir ___ Newton
- Close at ___; within reach
- Afternoon hour
- Tyrannizing
- ___ rage; driver's anger
- ___ up; bound
- Portion
- Encourage
- No ifs, ___ or buts
- Donkeys
- Optometrist's concerns

DOWN

- Stinging insect
- Longoria and her namesakes
- Parlor
- Ike's initials
- Counsel
- Dried plum
- Traveler's stop
- General Robert E. ___
- Slivers of glass
- Largest brass instrument
- Know-it-___; smart alecks
- Joy
- Summarize
- Swerve
- Anemia
- sufferer's need
- Radar screen image
- Sandwich shop
- Wear away
- Unruly child
- Rocket's curved path
- Buildings for stored fodder
- Pretense
- Reasonable bedtime
- Ernie's buddy
- Treble ___; musical symbol



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/2/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

BLTS	GLADE	CROC
ROAN	RAPID	RILE
ABLE	ACTED	ICED
DECEIVE	SIAMESE	
	ROY	FEEDS
ADIEU	GAL	DOCKS
HIND	TOT	VENIAL
EAT	REVIVED	GPA
ANEMIA	GIT	MAPS
DARED	SUE	SARAH
	MELLEE	MAC
EMPEROR	SODAPOP	
CAAN	CABIN	BADE
HINT	APART	RIOT
ONTO	LEASH	ERRS

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12/2/15

- Comic Carvey
- Location
- Shape; form
- Doorhanger's metal pieces
- Knight's spear
- Smidgen
- Whirl
- Mimicked
- Hurries
- Salary
- Elegant poems
- Hot tub
- Venus, to Serena
- Regret

Classifieds

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wk 40	room 336	\$3,750
wk 40	room 105	\$5,000
wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 49	room 571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
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PHARMACY

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San Nicolas: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

INFORMATION	118
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP



December 2
Monarch
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Avianca	588-0059
Aruba Airlines	583-8300
Jet Blue	588-2244
Surinam	582-7896
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Venezolana	583-7674

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FUNDACION

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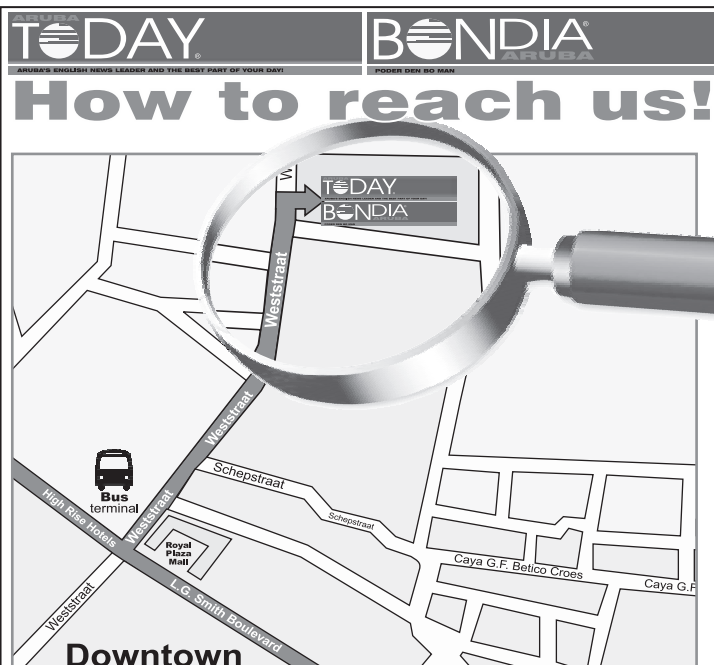
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Study: About 1/3 of world cactus threatened with extinction

MEXICO CITY (AP)—About a third of the world's cactus species are threatened with extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature warns in a new report.

The study evaluated 1,478 species and determined that 31 percent are endangered due to factors such as the conversion of wilderness areas to farming and ranching, urban development and the harvest of cactus seeds and plants for trade and private collection.

"We show that cacti are among the most threatened taxonomic groups assessed to date ... demonstrating the high anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity in arid lands," said the report, which was published in the journal *Nature Plants*.

It identified hotspots of endangered cactuses across the Americas, from the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul and parts of neighboring Uruguay north to the Mexican states of Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Oaxaca and Puebla.

Salvador Arias, cactus curator at the National Autonomous University of Mexico's botanical garden, said a little over a third of the country's 700 or so native species are at severe risk for survival and called the situation "alarming."

He said the greatest threat comes from destruction of habitat for crops and cattle. Second is illegal collection, often by aficionados who take seeds or plants to sell in European countries.

"These plants belong to the so-called exotic plants, which have ornamental value for people around the world," said Arias, who

was involved in putting together the report. "How did (the plants) make it there (Europe)? We can simply say through illegal extraction."

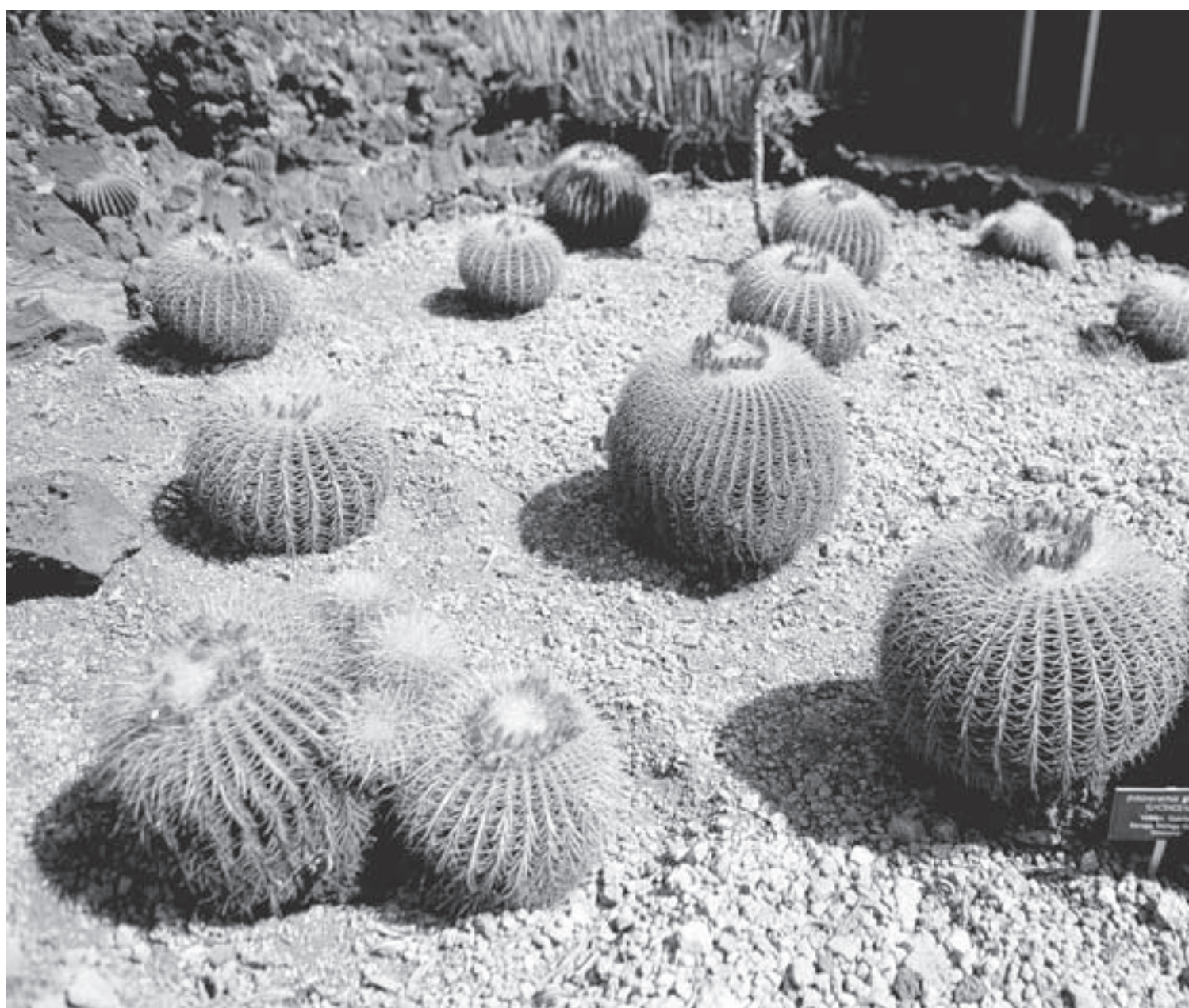
He added that authorities are trying to combat

western Argentina, tourists enjoy strolling among giant cactuses and snapping pictures of their bright yellow flowers.

Manuel Bibiloni, owner of Huin Cactus, a company in Argentina's Tucuman

for the plant it is very demanding," Bibiloni said. "It really costs them to adapt to different climates and situations. ... In many cases they end up dying, especially if you do not know how to care for them."

Muruago said the harvesting of cactus for shipment to Europe is as old as Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas and the practice was essentially unregulated until the 1970s.



In this Nov. 4, 2015 photo, endangered echinocactus grusonii cacti, also known as Biznaga, are seen growing inside the botanical gardens of the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City.
Associated Press

the problem, but more resources and education are needed.

Scientists say cactuses are important elements of desert ecosystems as sources of food and water for flora and fauna. They're also a source of nourishment and building materials for local human populations.

In places like arid north-

province that focuses on sustainable trade of cactuses, said the key for protecting them is to ensure that appreciation for the spiny plants happens in the places where they grow.

"Taking plants from their natural habitat is harmful firstly because you are doing direct damage to them, and furthermore

Nora Beatriz Muruago, a biologist specializing in cactus at the National University of Tucuman, said she was not surprised by the findings of the report. Cactuses have suffered in parts of Argentina from burning of natural grasses for agriculture and livestock and from road construction, she said.

"Cacti have always captivated people. ... The beauty of their flowers and the singularity of their forms," Muruago said.

"So the depletion should not surprise us," she added. "The collectors create a huge network of illegal trafficking and put many species at risk of disappearing." □

Luke Bracey says 'Point Break' remake bigger and better

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Hollywood actor Luke Bracey said Tuesday the remake of the action crime thriller "Point Break" is bigger and better because it's got extreme sports that weren't even invented when the original 1991 hit came out.

Bracey is the new Johnny Utah, the FBI agent played by Keanu Reeves in the 1991 movie who goes undercover among a gang of surfers led by Patrick Swayze.

In the remake that comes out in China on Friday and in the U.S. on Christmas Day, extreme sports take center stage. Bracey's Utah infiltrates a group of thrill-seeking athletes suspected of being criminals. Action adventure feats include big-wave surfing, wingsuit flying, sheer-face snowboarding, free rock climbing and high-speed motorcycling.



Australian actor Luke Bracey poses for photographers during a red carpet event for the movie "Point Break" in Beijing, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

The film's promoters are billing "Point Break" as the first Hollywood film to have its world premier in China, and Bracey, who attended the premiere in Beijing on Tuesday, said he expected it to

be the start of a new trend in Hollywood movies.

The movie also stars Venezuelan actor Edgar Ramirez as the athletes' leader Bodhi, Australian actress Teresa Palmer as a surfer, and Brit-

ish actor Ray Winstone.

The original film directed by Kathryn Bigelow was a hit that grossed \$83.5 million worldwide — less than the remake's more than \$125 million budget.

Some stunts and sports in the latest movie "hadn't even been thought of when the original was made, in the original they were still paddling into waves," said Bracey. Wing suiting, the sport of flying through the air in a special suit, hadn't been conceived at that time and it was in the mid-1990s that people "started using jet skis just to catch waves that were bigger than they could paddle into." "So, to use a cliché, it's bigger, and it's better and it's just a huge movie in terms of how different it is from the original," he said. The Australian actor said that while the original was based in California, the remake has been "expanded across the world." It was filmed in nine countries in four continents, including scenes of wingsuit flying in Switzerland, free rock climbing in Venezuela, snowboarding in the Italian Alps and surfing in Hawaii. □

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Norman Lear says TV is still a place to talk about race

J. LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Legendary TV producer Norman Lear believes there is still a place for shows to explore race relations issues in the same manner as his famed sitcoms "All in the Family" and "Good Times." Lear, a champion of television diversity, took part in a panel discussion about race and American cul-

ture on Monday night at Morehouse College to celebrate the 40th anniversary of another one of his classic sitcoms, "The Jeffersons." The show's 10-year run ended in 1985. It starred the late Sherman Hemsley as George Jefferson, a feisty, bigoted owner of a chain of dry-cleaning businesses. Several joined Lear in the discussion, from Marla



Television writer and producer Norman Lear poses for a portrait at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif. Legendary TV producer Lear believes there is still a place for shows to explore race relations issues in the same manner as his famed sitcoms "All in the Family" and "Good Times." Lear, a champion of television diversity, took part in a panel discussion about race and American culture at Morehouse College celebrating the 40th anniversary of his sitcom "The Jeffersons." (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

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THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2
JENNIFER LAWRENCE | JOSH HUTCHERSON
3D
MON-FRI 3:55 | 9:15
SAT 3:25 | 9:15
SUN & HOL 3:25 | 9:15
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 6:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 6:20

THE GOOD DINOSAUR
JEFFREY WRIGHT | FRANCES MCDORMAND
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:15 | 7:30
FRI 5:15 | 7:30 | 9:45
SAT 3:00 | 5:15 | 7:30 | 9:45
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:15 | 7:30
2D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40
FRI 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55
SAT 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN
DANIEL RADCLIFFE | JAMES MCAVOY
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:55 | 9:20
FRI 4:30 | 6:55 | 9:20 | 11:45
SAT 2:05 | 4:30 | 6:55 | 9:20 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:30 | 6:55 | 9:20

THE NIGHT BEFORE
BRAD PITT | ANGELINA JOLIE
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

33
ANTONIO BANDERAS | RODRIGO SANTORO
MON-THURS 6:20 | 9:10
FRI 6:20 | 9:10 | 11:50
SAT 6:20 | 9:10 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 6:20 | 9:10

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2
JENNIFER LAWRENCE | JOSH HUTCHERSON
MON-FRI 4:35 | 7:30
SAT 1:50 | 4:35 | 7:30
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:35 | 7:30

SPECTRE
DANIEL CRAIG | CHRISTOPH WALTZ
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:45 | 8:50
FRI 5:45 | 8:50
SAT 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50

THE PEANUTS MOVIE
KRISTIN CHENOWETH | FRANCESCA CAPALDI
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:10
FRI 4:10
SAT 2:00 | 4:10
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10

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Gibbs, who played the wise-cracking maid Florence on the show, to actresses Kim Fields and Keisha Knight-Pulliam, as well with veteran casting director Reuben Cannon and Usher. Usher wasn't old enough to watch the "The Jeffersons," "Sanford and Sons" or "All in the Family" when they were on the air. But the singer said watching the reruns of those shows filled a major void for him. "Realistic television and sitcoms became very valuable to me, because I was raised without a father," Usher said. "So I looked to these shows for an idea of a family structure. ... I found a connection there with those shows." Throughout his career, Lear confronted war, sexuality, abortion and poverty with topical humor on many of his shows. The 93-year-old

Lear, who also read from his memoir "Even This I Get to Experience," is working on a Hispanic version of his single-parent comedy "One Day at a Time." But he said there are more stories that should be told by a new generation of writers and filmmakers to spark more conversations. "The problems are still there to be talked about," Lear said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We still have problems. We still have a long way to go. I kept hearing about my shows from people that 'We watched as a family and talked when it was over. We always had conversations when it was over.' "That's what the whole American experiment is all about: Talking together. Finding the solution to the problem, being helped by literature, theater and so

forth." Lear said current shows like "Black-ish" have followed suit, commending the sitcom for tackling the N-word controversy head on. He said that one particular episode created a series of dialogue between many, which needs to happen more. "We're crazy not to talk about it, and get rid of it once and for all," he said. He recalled how "The Jeffersons" helped Russell Simmons at a young age before he became a well-known music mogul. "He talked about how he saw George Jefferson writing a check," Lear said. "At that time, he didn't know a Black man could write a check. It was a big moment in his young life. It wasn't the glitz of a hit TV show. It was the moments that made them feel whole." □

'Love & Hip Hop' star gets 8 years in prison

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — A cast member of the VH1 reality show "Love & Hip Hop" has been sentenced in upstate New York to eight years in prison for drug trafficking. At his federal court sentencing Tuesday, Mendeecees Harris also agreed to forfeit the \$171,000 he's

made from the television show, along with a 2011 Audi R8 sports car worth \$111,000. Harris pleaded guilty in April to conspiracy to distribute and possess heroin and cocaine. Prosecutors say the 37-year-old was involved in drug trafficking from 2005 until 2012.

The sentence was the lowest possible term under a plea agreement that included a maximum sentence of just over 10 years. Harris' attorney, Donald Thompson, says the judge recognized the work Harris has been doing since his arrest to deter young people from drug trafficking. □

POP LIFE

Seinfeld to play monthly at NYC's Beacon Theatre

NEW YORK (AP) — Beginning in January, fans of Jerry Seinfeld will be able to catch the comedian once a month at a New York City theater. The Madison Square Garden Company announced Tuesday that Seinfeld will perform at the Beacon Theatre in Upper Manhattan as part of a residency called "Jerry Seinfeld: The Homestand." Seinfeld said in a statement that the 2,800-seat Beacon has always been his favorite New York theater. He says it's a place that feels "alive" for him. Tickets for Seinfeld's first six shows go on sale online on Dec. 7 and at the Beacon box office on Dec. 8. The historic theater was acquired by MSG in 2006. The New York comedian's current project is a Web series called "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee." □

Morrissey wins 'Literary Review Bad Sex' award

LONDON (AP) — Maybe he should have stuck to writing songs — former Smiths frontman and lyricist Morrissey has won the annual award for the poorest quality writing about sex. The award that writers don't want to get was given on Tuesday at a gala ceremony in central London. The prize was given for Morrissey's first novel, "List of the Lost." The judges cited a scene between relay runner Ezra and his girlfriend Eliza in which the couple "rolled together into the one giggling snowball of full-figured copulation." Morrissey is the 23rd winner of the not-so-prestigious prize awarded by the Literary Review magazine to spotlight "poorly written, perfunctory or redundant" passages of sexual description. Explicitly pornographic works aren't eligible. Past winners include Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe. □

Need a tin man? Ask the wizards of 'The Wiz Live!'

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Peek behind the curtain at "The Wiz Live!" and you'll find there is indeed a wizard — or three.

They are costumer Paul Tazewell and makeup artists Dave and Lou Elsey, who are turning actors into munchkins and flying monkeys, and, of course, a lion, a scarecrow and a tin man.

The three-hour NBC event Thursday (8 p.m. EST) has forced the trio to come up with looks that are intriguing but engineered to withstand sweat, dancing and quick changes. And no stopping.

"With most television shows, you have the opportunity to cut and to go back and re-film and perfect as you go along," said Tazewell, a Tony Award nominee. "With this, there's no opportunity to do that. It does need to play as if we're on a Broadway stage. We hit the 'Go' button and there's no turning back."

On the makeup end, Dave Elsey, who won an Oscar in 2011 for co-creating the look for "The Wolfman," has teamed up with his wife, Lou, to update the Oz creatures for 2015, but without having the slower pace of a movie shoot.

"The biggest challenge is to get everything on in such a small amount of time and making sure that everything is locked down and perfect," said Lou Elsey, who worked with her husband on the effects for the final "Star Wars" pre-

quel.

The TV musical stars 19-year-old newcomer Shanice Williams as Dorothy, Queen Latifah as the Wiz, Mary J. Blige as the Wicked Witch of the West, Ne-Yo as the Tin Man, Elijah Kelley as the Scarecrow, David Alan Grier as the Cowardly Lion, as well as Common, Uzo Aduba, Amber Riley and Stephanie

can take as long as a commercial break and others only a minute — are required to switch actors into items like padded bodysuits and masks. Teams will be standing by for touch-ups.

"If there's a second where we can get to the actor when the camera's not on them, we'll be in there," said Dave Elsey. "Half the

Kelley, as the twitchy Scarecrow, posed a special problem for the makeup artists: "He's like an athlete so keeping it on him has become a real problem," Dave Elsey said. "Normal glues just weren't going to work on him."

The creators insisted that the actors not get lost in the getups and makeup. They wanted the per-



B busts of the Tin Man, to be played by Ne-Yo, appear in the make up room for "The Wiz Live!" in New York. The show, airing Thursday, also stars 19-year-old newcomer Shanice Williams as Dorothy, Queen Latifah as the Wiz, Mary J. Blige as the Wicked Witch of the West, Elijah Kelley as Scarecrow David Alan Grier as the Cowardly Lion, Common as the Bouncer, Uzo Aduba as Glinda, Amber Riley as Addaperle, and Stephanie Mills as Auntie Em. (Paul Gilmore/NBC via AP)

Mills, the original Broadway Dorothy.

Tazewell and the Elseys have created looks that are both concrete and evocative, using a mix of foam latex and acrylic paint. Hundreds of costumes — relax, there are spares on hand — have been made, not to mention dozens of noses, wings, wigs and tails.

Quick changes — some

job is maintaining. You stick the makeup on, and that's one thing. But making it last for a performance is a whole other kettle of fish." In this production, the Tin Man has rust stains, as if left out in the rain, and soft foam latex covers his whole head. The lion takes the longest amount of work since Grier's body shape had to be altered and real animal hair added.

former's personality to still emerge. Or as Lou Elsey said: "Let the humanity shine through."

The Elseys, who made their Broadway debut last year alongside Tazewell designing the revival of "Side Show," had to adapt to new timetables. On a movie set, what they do takes up to three hours. On Thursday, they'll have 20 minutes. □

Spotify:

Drake is most streamed artist of the year globally

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Spotify users are clearly listening to Drake. The rapper was the most streamed artist of the year globally.

Spotify announced its end-of-the-year list Tuesday and said Drake earned 1.8 billion streams in 2015. Rihanna was the year's most streamed female performer

with 1 billion streams, while Major Lazer's ubiquitous hit, "Lean On," was the most streamed song of the year with 540 million streams.

The Weeknd's breakout album, "Beauty Behind the Madness," was the most streamed album of the year, beating Drake's "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," which was No. 2.

Ed Sheeran, who was the

top streaming artist last year, was second behind Drake. The Weeknd, Maroon 5 and Kanye West rounded out the top five.

In the United States, Drake topped the list of most streamed artists, followed by the Weeknd, West, Sheeran and Eminem. Drake's "If You're Reading This" also topped the U.S. albums list, while Fetty

Wap's "Trap Queen" was the most streamed song in America.

In Spotify's all-time lists, Sheeran is the most streamed act with more than 3 billion streams; Justin Bieber has the record for most streams in a day with 36 million streams; and Major Lazer's "Lean On," which features MO and DJ Snake, is the leading song. □

Appalachia grasps for hope as coal jobs fade away

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

WELCH, W.Va. (AP) — The seams of coal in some of Eddie Asbury's mines in McDowell County are so thin workers can barely squeeze down them. They enter on carts nearly flat on their backs, the roof of the mine crouching by just a few inches in front of their faces. They don't stand up all day.

To keep his business operating with such a paltry amount of coal, Asbury has to do everything himself. He has no use for the shiny, multimillion-dollar mining machines on display this fall at the biannual coal show nearby. His equipment is secondhand stuff that he repairs and refurbishes. The coal he and his workers scrape out of the mountain is washed and prepared for sale in a plant Asbury and a colleague built themselves.

"It's how we survive," says Asbury, 66, a miner since 1971.

Even coal is barely surviving in coal country — and coal is about the only thing Central Appalachia has.

West Virginia is the only state in the country where more than half of adults are not working, according to the Census Bureau. It is tied with Kentucky for the highest percentage of residents collecting disability payments from Social Security, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. And the death rate among working-age adults is highest in the nation, 55 percent higher the national average, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Now, the one main source for decent-paying work, the brutal life of coal, seems to be drying up for good. The thick, easy, cheap coal is gone, global competition is fierce, and clean air and water regulations are increasing costs and cutting into demand. "There's a reluctant realization that this is different," says Keith Burdette, West Virginia's commerce secretary and head of the state's economic develop-

ment office, of the latest coal bust.

Central Appalachia's struggle is familiar to many rural regions across the U.S., where middle-class jobs are disappearing or gone and young people have no other choice than to leave to find opportunity. But the problems are amplified in coal country, where these difficult economic and social conditions have

possibilities because coal may not be here," says Dr. Donovan "Dino" Beckett, CEO of the Williamson Health and Wellness Center.

Beckett, 46, started a free clinic under a federal program to encourage treatment of underserved populations to go along with his more traditional doctor's office, a Diabetes Coalition, and a project called

rivals at a time when the world is trying to turn away from coal. Coal is by far the biggest source of carbon dioxide and airborne pollutants among fuels used to make electricity.

As jobs disappeared from coal country people fled, leaving behind abandoned buildings and empty lots.

Brandon Dennison devised a business plan in gradu-

Dennison plans to expand early next year to start similar businesses focused on agriculture, tourism and retail.

"We're trying to change mindsets in coal country, from 'the world is out to get me' to 'the world is full of opportunity,'" he says. "A huge focus of the training we do is around entrepreneurship and how to start a business."



The town of Welch, W.Va., in McDowell County is seen on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. About the only flat land to build anything among the jumble of mountains in Southern West Virginia is in the hollows traced by small rivers, and that land sits in dangerous flood plains. This unavoidable geography has hampered efforts to diversify the economy, despite decades of effort.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

gripped the region for decades and where there is hardly any flat land to build anything.

Big federal and state programs and initiatives, some dating from the Lyndon Johnson administration, have failed to help the region diversify its economy much beyond digging or blasting coal out of mountains. If anything is going to help the people of Appalachia, poverty experts and residents of West Virginia now say, it's themselves: local entrepreneurs who know their communities and customers well, and are committed to them.

"We need to have some urgency and look at other

Sustainable Williamson that helped set up a farmer's market to provide access to healthier food.

This summer, Sustainable Williamson opened a space for budding entrepreneurs in a converted old furniture store called The Hub, where people with ideas for businesses can get support and advice.

"We wanted to start a clinic, but we wanted to be an economic driver for the area, too," Beckett says. Coal employment in Central Appalachia has been declining for decades, a result of mechanization in the 1960s, the collapse of the U.S. steel industry in the 1980s, and now cheaper

ate school that uses some of these disadvantages to create jobs.

His creation, Coalfield Development Corp., hires graduates of high school vocational programs to restore, repurpose or tear down old buildings, use old building materials to make furniture, or build new homes on reclaimed coalfield land.

Employees also are required to take six hours of community college courses a week and three hours of life skills classes that help them with things like money management and healthy eating.

The program is getting such a good response that

Globally, coal will not go completely away anytime soon — it's the cheapest way to bring electricity to the 1.3 billion people who lack access to it, and even developed nations will still need to burn it as they transition to cleaner fuels. But the thin seams left in Central Appalachia are too expensive to compete with cheaper coal being mined in places like Illinois, Wyoming, Australia and Indonesia. The industry will persist, driven by small, determined operators like Asbury who are after high quality coal used to make steel, but as a niche no longer able to support a region's economy. □